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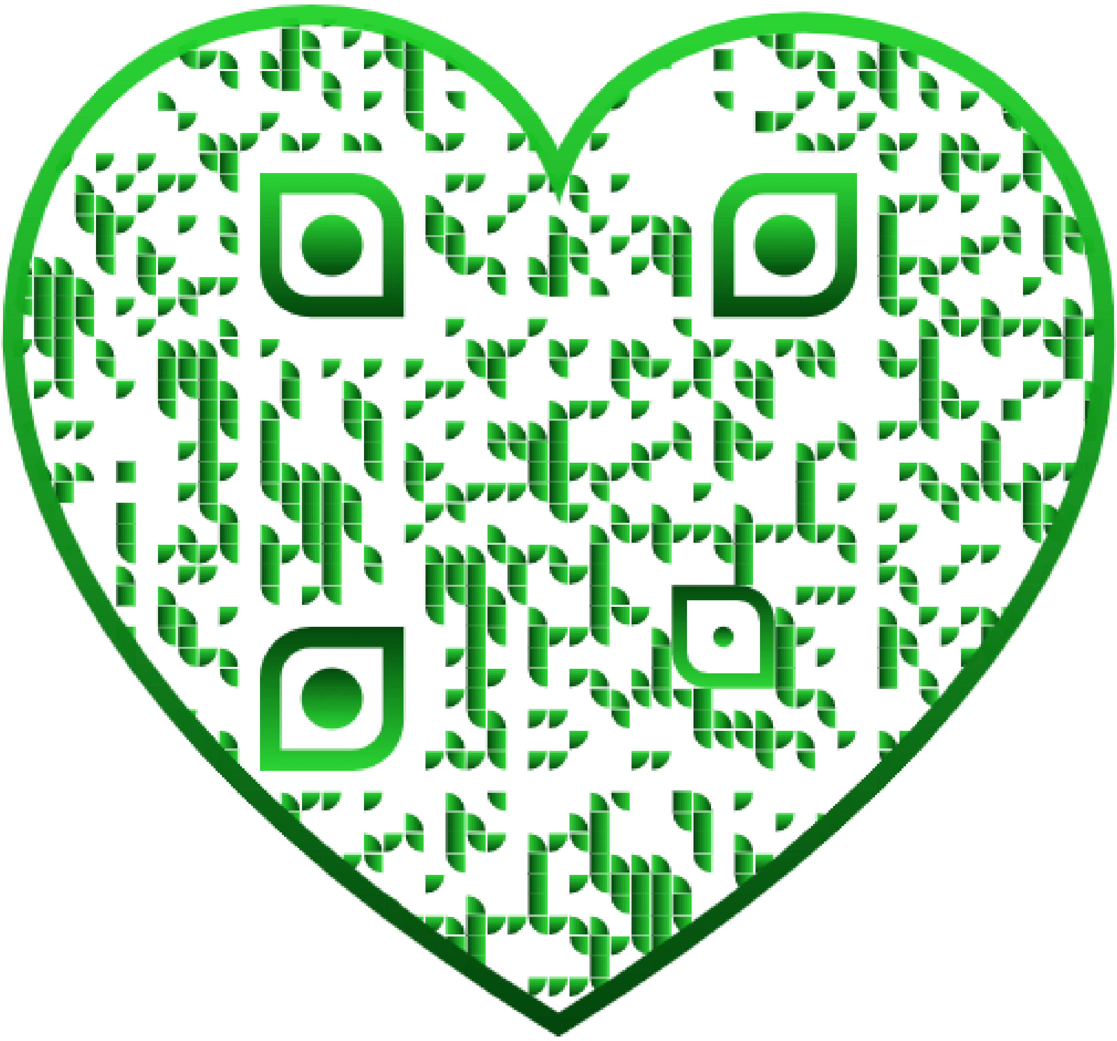

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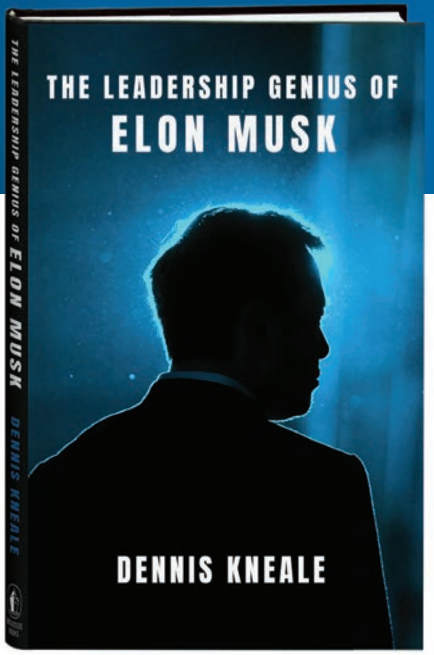

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Official Journal Of The National Rifle Association Of America

Doug Hamlin, Executive Vice President & CEO
The National Rifle Association delivers for its members by being the national leader in the fight to defend the Second Amendment and to promote responsible gun ownership, public safety, firearms training, hunting, and shooting sports and we do it with integrity, accountability, and transparency.

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For the Man Who Gives Everything and Expects Nothing

If you're anything like my dad, you give your family everything. Your name, your time, your values — the people in your life know they can depend on you for practically anything. In exchange for imparting all of this energy and experience, you expect nothing in return.

The point? You deserve to treat yourself once in a while. You do so much for the people you care about. Now it's time to focus on you for just a few minutes. That's where the Men's Due Volta Watch comes in. This astonishing innovation provides a digital readout that's powered by a precise quartz engine, combining both analog and digital timekeeping.

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FROM THE EDITOR

In the Footsteps of Freedom

By **Frank Miniter,** *Editor in Chief*

When I asked about the flintlock rifle over the bar in the Green Dragon Tavern in Boston, the waitress from England did not know anything about the old gun. I commented that it was ironic that she did not know and her eyes turned cold.

"It is just that today is the 250th anniversary of the 'shot heard 'round the world' and here we are in the inn that takes its name from the one the Sons of Liberty met in and you're English and working in Boston and yet you don't know anything about this gun," I rambled.

"What's the 'shot heard 'round the world?'" she asked.

"Oh," I said.

Back outside on a marvelous April morning, my 12-year-old son, Christian, and I kept following the wending path marked by two red bricks that go end to end from Boston Common to Bunker Hill. This is the Freedom Trail. It's a clever idea, a path through the old neighborhoods of the city that connects the places we all learned about in middle school history classes. Some are changed, but many, if taken by themselves, still feel like they would not be out of place in 1775.

The Paul Revere House and the Old North Church are particularly well kept. After them, a walkway across the Charles River leads to the USS Constitution (aka, "Old Ironsides"), which is worth the walk all by itself, as is its museum.

We then went up winding streets to Bunker Hill. It was then covered in families with young kids searching for Easter eggs. I could not—this time—find the plaque that explains that the British Red Coats had at first brought the wrong-sized cannon balls in their haste to respond to suddenly entrenched colonial Americans on the hill over the city. This mistake likely prolonged the battle. But, in any case, the British, in their arrogance, had not occupied the hill and so had to march uphill into American muskets to take it.

It is sad to say that, in a sense, the battle is ongoing. Today, those who want to take this freedom from the people are not wearing red coats, and the struggle is in the courts and legislatures, but it is in progress nonetheless.

Massachusetts in 2025 is hardly friendly to the freedom those patriots fought for two and a half centuries ago. Many of today's local officials, as the British once did, distrust lawfully armed citizens. "A land ruled by fear is not the land of the free," said Boston Mayor Michelle Wu (D). And she was not referring to crime or criminals, but to armed citizens carrying concealed for their own self-defense.

Outside of Boston that night, my son and I attended a Gun Owners Action League (GOAL) event to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the battles at Concord and Lexington and to celebrate that the British were chased, pans flashing and balls flying, back to Boston by armed patriots.

My son, as he was the youngest person in the room, was called onto the stage. He wore his NRA hat up there and hailed the audience and was gifted a Red Ryder BB gun. The applause was grand and many people fist-pumped him as he clutched the BB gun and walked back to his seat. As I watched this, I wondered why more attendees did not bring their kids or grandkids. They were all so proud to see a 12-year-old there, but none had brought their own. If we are to keep America on the freedom trail, we need to bring the next generation along.

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MAIL CALL

A Weekend in a New York City Pistol Class

The Facts Don't Lie

"A Weekend in a New York City Pistol Class" (May, p. 32) shows how there are more hoops and restrictions for law-abiding citizens while criminals do as they like. It's pointless legal nonsense to pacify gun-control groups. Tools don't create issues; people create issues. Until politicians and anti-gun groups face the facts and address the real issue, there won't be any reduction in crime or criminal activities. If gun-control laws reduced crime, Chicago would be the safest place on Earth. Wasting taxpayer dollars and time merely pacifies people who refuse to face the facts. Tools don't cause harm; people do!

George Jones,
Via Facebook

A DEGREE IN IGNORANCE

"A Far-Left Gun-Control Activist Ascends to DNC Leadership" (April, p. 16) wonders "what kind of education [David Hogg] received at Harvard." I'd suggest that he received a master's degree in ignorance. To support that claim, consider that Hogg says, "You have no right to a gun. You are not a militia. When you're talking about your second amendment rights you're talking about a states [sic] right to have what is today the national guard."

Besides the grammatical and spelling errors, his statement is patently incorrect. He makes multiple errors that substantiate his ignorance.

Hogg has clearly read none of the speeches, essays, newspapers, pamphlet articles, books or otherwise from the political thinkers of the 18th century.

The Second Amendment means that civilians are the militia, and those citizens must be well regulated or, in other words, well prepared. Hogg needs to have his Harvard tuition refunded.

Earl Faulkner Sr.,
Edina, Minn.

AN ACCURATE GLIMPSE INTO NEW YORK'S RESTRICTIONS

Thank you for the article "A Weekend in a New York City Pistol Class" by James Panero (May, p. 32) that detailed the training requirements put on those seeking to comply with New York's onerous concealed-carry permit process. As the article detailed, those applying for a permit must take a two-day, 18-hour class, pay $500, and even then, can still not legally carry in most places throughout the city and state of New York.

Criminals, however, do not have to go through this burdensome process and continue to carry wherever and whenever they want while law-abiding citizens are left defenseless. Even when these criminals are caught and arrested, liberal prosecutors often release them with little more than a slap on the wrist.

The fact that any law-abiding citizen must go through this sort of process to exercise a constitutionally protected right is infuriating. We must not tolerate this nonsense when it comes to exercising our Second Amendment rights.

Clayton Rhoades,
Richmond, Va.

NATIONAL RECIPROCITY IS A MUST

On "The Constitutional Purge of Bad Guns Laws" (May, p. 48), some states unfortunately refuse to respect the U.S. Constitution and have severe restrictions on firearms and ownership. At a minimum, we must enact reciprocity for travel and put a stop to making illegal any semi-automatic firearm in any state.

David Nichols,
Via Facebook

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The Basis Of The NRA Is Freedom

By Doug Hamlin
NRA Executive
Vice President & CEO

As I write this, I am just back from the 154th NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits in Atlanta. It was a whirlwind of a show with more than 70,000 members of this association coming together to celebrate our right to keep and bear arms.

If you could not make it to Atlanta, consider coming to Houston in April 2026 for the next NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits. There is nothing else like it. Indeed, so many stirring conversations and powerful events from this past show are now running through my thoughts. There was the Foundation Banquet and Auction with all its pomp. There was the Women's Leadership Brunch & Auction, which has become a don't-miss event. There was the NRA Country "Freedom Experience" concert, featuring Big & Rich and their blend of country and rock, in which John Rich gave a pounding salutation on the history of the Second Amendment that rocked the audience. Then there was the moving somberness of the National Prayer Breakfast and so many things in between.

Everywhere was excitement. If you stopped for a moment, you could hear it in the hum on the show floor amidst the 600 booths filled with guns and gear as all the NRA members moved along the aisles.

As I went from event to event, I kept running into this visible enthusiasm. This feeling was evident in the tone of the questions as I did interviews in our "Voices of the Second Amendment" section for media on the show floor.

The Annual Meeting of Members also had this upbeat vibe. I gave a speech, of course, and was proud to again tell the members I serve them. Their standing ovation was moving. Next came the members' proposed resolutions. Four were considered. The members voted down two, adopted one and sent one other to the Board for further review.

The theme of these resolutions was transparency and accountability, which is completely in step with what we've already done this past year. The resolution that was adopted asks the Board to create a website for NRA members that will expand access to NRA financial and governance reports. This resolution also asks the Board to consider live-streaming Board meetings to all NRA members.

I have no doubt the NRA Board of Directors will quickly take up this call to action. The Board has changed considerably, as has your NRA leadership, and these changes are very much in step with the goals and aspirations of a majority of our current Board members. This shows that the membership is clearly in charge, as you should be.

On the Monday after the show, the NRA Board elected Bill Bachenberg, of Pennsylvania, as president of the NRA (his first column is in these pages). The Board elected Mark Vaughan, of Oklahoma, as NRA First Vice President and Rocky Marshall, of Texas, as NRA Second Vice President. The Board also reelected Sonya B. Rowling as NRA Treasurer, Robert Mensinger as NRA Chief Compliance Officer and John C. Frazer as NRA Secretary.

They also reelected me to continue my mission of serving you. Following my reelection, I reappointed John Commerford as the executive director of the NRA Institute for Legislative Action (NRA-ILA) and Josh Savani as the executive director of NRA General Operations.

This is your team, men and women chosen by representatives you elected. As I spoke to individuals and audiences during the show, I let them know we are reinvigorating the NRA's competitions; we are deeply involved in legislative and legal efforts in all the states and at the federal level, which is critical as we help President Donald Trump and his administration in their offensive fight for our freedom; we are also focused on membership drives and so much more.

Indeed, we are doing so much that I am careful not to lose sight of our basis. A true reformation must have a center, a fundamental thing that does not and cannot change. This is the Second Amendment of the U.S. Bill of Rights. It is a natural right protected by those 27 words articulated by the Founders of this great nation. This is the basis of your NRA—true, individual, Second Amendment-protected freedom is at the center of this association, and all the related things we do revolve around this God-given right.

The strength of the NRA is its membership, and our membership is held together by the basic fact that we have, and must retain, the right to defend our lives and liberty. I could feel this within everyone I met at the NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits. So many of us fit into different demographics and backgrounds, but we all have this in common. We are all members of this critical association. Please go to **nra.org** to sign up a new member, to renew your membership or to donate. The more of us who stand together for our freedom, the stronger we are in legislative, legal and cultural battles.

Like us on Facebook at the National Rifle Association. For related articles, go to nrapublications.org.

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It's A New Day At The NRA

By William A. Bachenberg
President

I write my first column as President of the National Rifle Association with both great pride and humility. I'm proud of the enduring spirit of the millions of NRA members who have stood strong with the organization through the challenges of recent years, and I'm equally humbled to be tasked with helping you, as members, advance the organization into a future we can all take pride in. With Doug Hamlin's reelection as executive vice president and CEO and a new leadership team on the Board of Directors, it's time to make significant progress.

Before we discuss that future, however, let me briefly introduce myself. I grew up on a farm in rural New Jersey. Consequently, I spent a lot of time in the field with my .22, plinking and chasing groundhogs. I moved from New Jersey to Pennsylvania in 1999.

As a founder and successful businessman in industries ranging from high-tech to energy to life sciences, two keys to my success have been surrounding myself with outstanding individuals and building strategic relationships and partnerships. I am passionate about America's heroes—military and first responders—and I have a strong interest in involving youth, women, minorities and disabled Americans in the shooting sports.

I recently got involved in politics and stay attuned to important issues at both the federal and state levels. I've collaborated closely with President Donald Trump's (R) elections and helped launch several of his initiatives involving sportsmen and women.

My wife and I own Lehigh Valley Sporting Clays in Coplay, Pa. I'm also a small- and large-game hunter who participates in sporting clays, handgun shooting and extreme-long-range shooting. My sons are avid hunters, and my message to them has always been: "All we have in life is our integrity, and you can destroy it in a minute if you're not careful."

Enough about me, though. Let's talk about you. The strength of any organization lies in its members, and NRA members are among the very best citizens of our country and the backbone of our great association. For far too long, however, past NRA leadership did not do as good of a job as it should have. The status quo managed to drown you out, leaving your concerns and ideas unheard and unheeded.

That has changed. As we move this great association forward, we will rebuild your trust and ensure that the past errors will never occur again. Your comments, ideas and even complaints will not be ignored; they will strengthen us.

I'm not one to sit around when there's work to be done. Instead, I jump into any task with both feet, and this new role is no different. After the officer election results were announced, I, along with new First Vice President Mark Vaughan and Second Vice President Rocky Marshall—two honorable businessmen who have the Association's best interests at heart—immediately created a new vision statement for the NRA Board of Directors. That mission is: "To restore the National Rifle Association as a trusted leader in firearms and hunter education, firearm safety, shooting competitions and constitutional advocacy through transparency, accountability and a renewed commitment to responsible gun ownership."

WE WILL RESTORE THIS ASSOCIATION TO GREATNESS AND FULFILL OUR TASK OF PERPETUATING AMERICAN LIBERTY.

In my acceptance speech, I also announced several presidential directives for the initial months of my presidency. Among other things, these include forming a Strategic Advisory Committee (SAC) to evaluate the NRA's operating structure, programs, funding methods and communications; holding monthly informal virtual meetings with the board, as three meetings a year are insufficient to achieve our mission; and creating a Skunk Works-type group to develop cutting-edge solutions for new membership acquisition programs, improve member communications, enhance large donor engagement and leverage information technology for the good of the entire association.

As you are well aware, we are at a pivotal point in our association's history as we reach out to new members, build on the trust of existing members and provide the gold-standard programs that American gun owners expect. As the nation's oldest civil-rights organization, the NRA plays a critical role in protecting and advancing freedom in America. With your help, we will restore this association to greatness and fulfill our task of perpetuating American liberty for our children and grandchildren.

I'm keenly aware that actions speak louder than words, which you'll see as we move forward. Please trust me when I say it's a new day at the NRA. We're glad to have each of you along for what will undoubtedly prove to be an exciting journey.

Bill

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John Commerford
Executive Director, NRA-ILA

Josh Savani
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For news about your NRA, visit: nra.org and nraila.org.

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Virginia Closes In On Critical Off-Cycle Election: Three Races To Watch

By John Commerford
Executive Director,
NRA-ILA

It can seem like it is always election season. In fact, in the era of Donald Trump, nonstop campaigning seems even more prevalent, as Democrat leadership and their allies in the media continue to question virtually every policy he ran on—policies that secured his victory.

President Trump made clear he would work to protect and strengthen the Second Amendment, and he has been doing just that. Those opposed to the right to arms, however, will never give up and are prone to wail even louder when they are no longer in power, always pushing for more gun control even after voters clearly rejected it.

That said, anti-gun forces could well regain key seats of power this year in Virginia, home of NRA Headquarters.

Before you say, "Oh, no! Not another election column," let me simply remind you that defenders of freedom can never become complacent, nor, sadly, can they ever rest. As the saying goes, the price of freedom is eternal vigilance.

Now, Virginians know that we have enjoyed four years of having a stalwart defender of the Second Amendment in Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R). Over the last two legislative cycles, he has vetoed more than 50 anti-gun bills. I don't know if that is a record, but it is an awesome testament to Gov. Youngkin's steadfast defense of our cherished freedom.

But Virginia doesn't allow its governors to be elected to consecutive terms, so there will be someone new occupying the mansion in Richmond, Va., next year. Election Day to determine who that will be is Nov. 4, and the difference between the Republican and Democrat candidates vying to replace Youngkin could not be clearer when it comes to defending the rights of law-abiding gun owners.

Current Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears (R) is as strong and vocal an advocate for our rights as you could possibly want. She served in the U.S. Marine Corps and became famous nationally when, as a candidate for lieutenant governor, she produced campaign material depicting her holding an AR-15. Anti-gun extremists pilloried her over that, and she told NRA that even some Republicans suggested she was "too openly for guns," but she stood her ground.

NRA-PVF endorsed that run, and the voters of Virginia did, too, making her the first black woman to hold the second-highest office in Virginia.

In stark contrast, Abigail Spanberger (D) is the very definition of anti-gun. She has been campaigning with gun-ban extremist groups like Moms Demand Action and Students Demand Action—both subsidiaries of billionaire Mike Bloomberg's anti-gun operation—and she regularly repeats anti-gun lies, like calling firearms "the number one killer of kids in our country."

Spanberger boasts of endorsements from virtually every gun-ban organization there is, including Brady, Giffords and Bloomberg's Everytown. She supports banning semi-automatics and limiting the capacity of magazines, among many other infringements.

If Spanberger had been governor when the anti-gun majority in the Virginia General Assembly sent that deluge of freedom-killing bills Gov. Youngkin vetoed, the outcome would have been devastatingly different.

In another critical race, the current Virginia attorney general, Jason Miyares (R), is running for reelection. Miyares, like Earle-Sears, was endorsed by NRA-PVF when he ran for the office he now holds. As a member of the Virginia General Assembly, he consistently voted to support law-abiding gun owners, and he has carried through with that support as attorney general.

In 2022, under the guidance of Miyares, the solicitor general of Virginia wrote to the U.S. Supreme Court to notify them that the commonwealth of Virginia supports the right to keep and bear arms outside the home in the NRA-backed case of *NYSRPA v. Bruen*. This reversed the position previously held by former anti-gun Attorney General Mark Herring (D).

We don't yet know who his Democrat opponent will be, but I do know Miyares has proven his pro-gun bona fides.

Of course, there are other races, but as I am writing this column, many candidates have yet to be determined, and I have to wait to see how the political landscape unfolds before I work with staff to determine our involvement. As Election Day gets closer, Virginia NRA members need to keep a watchful eye out for alerts from me and my colleagues about the critical races in the commonwealth and in their local areas.

In the meantime, if you want to get more involved, go to **nraila.org/grassroots**. There you will find information on volunteering, registering to vote, contacting local activists (our FrontLines Activist Leaders) and other ways you can help defend freedom.

Fellow Virginians, I encourage you to stand and fight!

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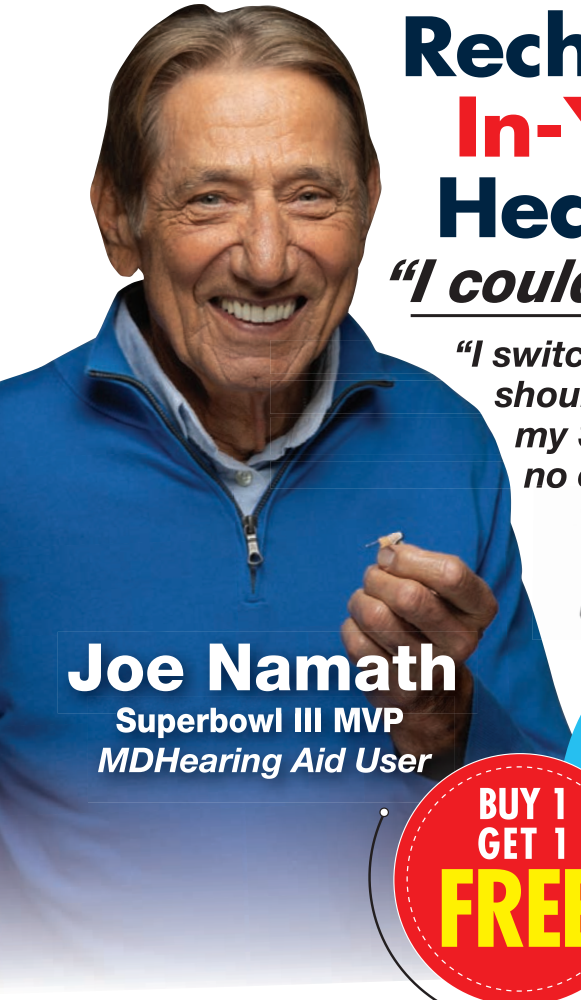

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The Department of Justice Started a Second Amendment Task Force

By **Susanne Edward**

In an unprecedented move, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) launched a dedicated Second Amendment Task Force—marking a historic shift in how the federal government approaches Second Amendment-protected rights.

Quietly detailed in an early April memo from Attorney General Pam Bondi, the initiative notably includes a representative from the Civil Rights Division, signaling a broader recognition of the right to keep and bear arms as not just a policy issue, but as a core civil right. Traditionally, the Civil Rights Division has focused on safeguarding freedoms related to voting, housing and employment; this marks the first time the Second Amendment is being elevated to that same level of federal oversight, placing it alongside the First and Fourteenth Amendments in priority.

According to the DOJ's official announcement, the Second Amendment Task Force will use the “full might” of the department to uphold the right to keep and bear arms.

Todd Blanche

Bondi will chair the special unit, with Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche serving as vice chair. The unit will collaborate with personnel from the FBI, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' (ATF) Criminal Division and with key offices within the DOJ, including the associate attorney general, the solicitor general, the Civil Division and the Civil Rights Division.

“The prior administration placed an undue burden on gun owners and vendors by targeting law-abiding citizens exercising their 2nd Amendment rights,” said Bondi. “The Department of Justice's new 2nd Amendment Task Force will combine department-wide policy and litigation resources to advance President Trump's pro-gun agenda and protect gun owners from overreach.”

The Second Amendment Task Force is headed by Attorney General Pam Bondi (above). The Task Force also works with the FBI and other agencies within the U.S. Department of Justice.

For a community that has long viewed federal institutions as skeptical—if not outright hostile—to individual gun ownership, the DOJ's new stance is a significant turning point. It is, of course, not an endorsement of any group or lifestyle, but it is a recognition that the Second Amendment protects a civil right.

From the beginning, the Second Amendment has been a fundamental civil right, rooted in the belief that individuals have the inherent authority to protect themselves, their families and their property.

Photo top: Alex Brandon/AP; above: Francis Chung/AP

Historically, it was also a safeguard against tyranny, with its protections extending particularly to marginalized groups—such as newly freed blacks after the Civil War—who relied on the right to bear arms as a means of self-defense and equal protection under the law.

Many pro-freedom elected officials have voiced support for the Second Amendment Task Force; in fact, a public letter from a coalition of 26 attorneys general who all support the Second Amendment Task Force was sent to Bondi. The letter called this task force a “critical space for the federal government to devise innovative strategies to use litigation and police effectively in the fight to protect the Second Amendment.”

Shortly before the Second Amendment Task Force was announced, the DOJ’s Civil Rights Division launched an investigation into allegations that the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department is violating the right to bear arms recently reaffirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Several concealed-carry applicants who met California’s licensing requirements reported delays of 18 months or more in Los Angeles, with little transparency or explanation—effectively denying their right to carry. The DOJ’s inquiry appears to be focused on the bureaucratic delays themselves and whether these policies amount to de facto denials of a constitutional right.

Beyond Los Angeles, the task force may also turn its attention to Colorado. Recently, the Centennial State passed new laws limiting concealed carry in so-called “sensitive places,” such as libraries, parks and public transportation and also passed gun bans and many other new restrictions. These laws have prompted outrage from Second Amendment advocates, as the “sensitive-places” restrictions effectively make it impossible for permit holders to go about daily life while both remaining in compliance with the law and ensuring their ability to defend themselves from violent criminals.

Some Republican members of the Colorado House of Representatives have subsequently called on the DOJ’s Second Amendment Task Force to examine whether the law is a targeted infringement that violates the U.S. Supreme Court’s recent guidance in *Bruen* (2022), which emphasized a historical-tradition test for gun regulations. As this was going to print, the DOJ had made no public commitment about investigating Colorado’s laws. Yet the Second Amendment Task Force’s existence means that states should be prepared to be held accountable for laws, policies and practices that violate the Second Amendment.

It’s too early to predict how far the DOJ’s Second Amendment Task Force will go. The announcement itself doesn’t radically reshape gun law in America. For the first time in modern memory, however, the federal government is signaling that it may no longer be in the business of just regulating guns—it may also start protecting the rights of gun owners. The establishment of the Second Amendment Task Force and the involvement of the Civil Rights Division sends a clear message: Gun rights, like voting rights, cannot be selectively obstructed.

DOJ SAYS THE SECOND AMENDMENT IS A CIVIL RIGHT

> “*The new project I’ve got going in the Civil Rights Division, to the surprise of many people on both sides, is the Second Amendment. Who’s protecting the Second Amendment in the federal government? Prior Republican administrations haven’t paid a lot of attention to affirmatively doing that.*
>
> *But in the wake of clear guidance from the Supreme Court, protecting our right to own and use firearms in most circumstances throughout the United States, city after city, state after state are eviscerating those rights. They’re mocking the Supreme Court by passing laws that make it virtually impossible … .*
>
> *So, we will be working together to make this a focus of the Civil Rights Division … challenging state law that violates fundamental civil rights in the Civil Rights Division.”*

—Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Harmeet Dhillon

Photo: Gage Skidmore

Over One Million Trained Per Year

The NRA's training programs reach over one million participants annually. The NRA has a network of over 125,000 certified instructors and 2,200 training counselors. These instructors were there when a surge in interest in training occurred in 2020. Since then, this interest has continued. In 2020 alone, NRA instructors trained over 1.2 million Americans, a 100% increase from the previous year. That number has stayed up over one million in each year since. People are going to **NRAinstructors.org** and searching for nearby instructors and courses. Many of these citizens have never previously owned or handled a gun. Many come from demographics the mainstream media tells us don't traditionally own guns. According to the National Shooting Sports Foundation, more than 26 million Americans have become first-time gun owners since 2020. And this doesn't appear to be a temporary trend—it's a transformation in how America thinks about safety.

The Facts About Colorado's New Gun-Control Package

Colorado's latest gun-control measure, SB25-003, which was signed into law by Gov. Jared Polis (D), takes effect on Aug. 1, 2026. The law mandates that prospective buyers of semi-automatic rifles, shotguns or handguns that are equipped with detachable magazines must complete safety-training courses, pass written and practical tests and obtain sheriff-issued eligibility permits before making a purchase. The measure also regulates the sale, transfer and manufacture of most semi-automatic firearms, with noncompliance punishable under state law.

Critics, including members of Colorado's Republican caucus, point out that the legislation is a direct assault on the Second Amendment. They argue that the new requirements transform a fundamental right into a state-administered privilege, accessible only through compliance with layers of regulations, fees and bureaucratic red tape.

"The right to keep and bear arms is not a privilege you buy through permits, fees and red tape. It is an unalienable Constitutional right," said state Rep. Ty Winter (R), one of the most vocal opponents of SB25-003. "Colorado's new gun law is an assault on that right and I will fight it every step of the way."

In response to the law's passage, Colorado Republicans have formally appealed to the state's Supreme Court and to U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi, urging her to investigate the legality of SB25-003 under federal constitutional standards. They cite recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions—notably *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* (2022)—which reaffirm that the right to bear arms is not a second-class right.

Colorado Gov. Jared Polis

Photos top: NRA; above: Rick Bowmer/AP; opposite: Gage Skidmore

The Justice Department Weighs In

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE submitted an amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in *Wolford v. Lopez*, a case challenging a state's authority—in this case Hawaii—to prohibit concealed-carry license holders from carrying a firearm on private property that is open to the public without the property owner's express consent.

The Trump Budget and the ATF

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP'S (R) discretionary budget request for fiscal year 2026 does not propose defunding the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) entirely, but he is asking for a major reduction in spending for the agency. The proposed budget asks for $468 million less than this year's budget of roughly $1.62 billion for the ATF.

Go to **A1F.com** for more breaking news on this and other Second Amendment topics.

Tulsi Gabbard

The Trump Administration Uncovered This

TULSI GABBARD, the director of national intelligence, declassified a shocking plan by former President Joe Biden's (D) administration for dealing with what it called "domestic terrorists." The original publicly available portion of the plan was aimed at criminals. Gabbard declassified the rest of the plan showing that the Biden administration aimed to track "concerning non-criminal behavior." To combat what they characterized as a threat of domestic terrorism, the Biden administration advocated for censorship, for closing people's bank accounts and for yet more gun control.

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In Seattle around 1 a.m. on May 2, a 28-year-old man reportedly broke in through the outer door of an apartment complex and then attempted to break into several apartments. When he allegedly attempted to enter a third-floor apartment, a resident who was home with his wife and 2-year-old child heard the man yelling and kicking at their door. The resident gave several warnings to the man as he attempted to enter, then shot the suspect once he had succeeded at breaking down the door, striking him in the leg. No charges were indicated at the time of reporting. (komonews.com, Seattle, Wash., 5/2/25)

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A pregnant woman in Crockett County, Tenn., was violently assaulted on April 17 in her home, including being attacked with a "knife, a pistol and strangulation," according to police. She managed to get to a firearm, then shot and killed her assailant. "She is six months pregnant and there were two other children in the household," the district attorney told reporters. "She had no other choice but to defend herself. That is why people have guns. In this case, she used her firearm appropriately to defend not only herself, but her children." No charges were pending at the time of reporting. (wbbjtv.com, Jackson, Tenn., 4/23/25)

A 50-year-old man approached a couple sitting in their car in Henrico County, Va., on April 26. The man attempted to rob them and fired his gun at one point during the attempt, but the male victim was also armed and returned fire, striking and killing the assailant. (wtvr.com, Richmond, Va., 4/28/25)

A man in Austin went to his girlfriend's workplace around 7 p.m. on May 1 and the two got into an argument outside the business. She went back inside, and the man left. However, he soon returned and began banging on the door. A male bystander intervened, and the boyfriend pulled a knife on him. The intervening man responded by shooting the assailant, killing him. No charges were pending at the time of reporting. (austintexas.gov, Austin, Texas, 5/1/25)

On May 2, a man inside a convenience store in Plant City, Fla., started arguing with another customer. Both men left the store, but then one man pulled a knife on the other. The threatened man responded by firing one round, killing the assailant. The investigation was ongoing, but the initial evidence points to it being a self-defense shooting under Florida's "Stand Your Ground" laws. (wfla.com, Tampa, Fla., 5/5/25)

A masked man in Greece, N.Y., entered a convenience store the morning of May 6. The store owner reportedly asked the man to take off the mask, but the suspect instead drew a gun and pointed it at the owner. The store owner, however, drew his own firearm and shot the suspect in the leg. The alleged assailant was transported to the hospital and faces charges of attempted robbery. (whec.com, Rochester, N.Y., 5/6/25)

A 42-year-old man broke into a home in Summerville, S.C., at about 1:30 a.m. on May 8 and was fatally shot. The investigation was open with no charges pending at the time of reporting. (abcnews4.com, Mount Pleasant, S.C., 5/7/25)

On May 7, a man was loitering near a drive-up ATM at a credit union in Albuquerque, N.M. Two of the business' employees confronted the man, but he allegedly punched one of them in the face. He then jumped onto the hood of a woman's vehicle and demanded money; when she did not comply, he reportedly kicked in her windshield. He then approached another customer, who shot him in the leg. The suspect was arrested and charged with three felony counts. No other charges were reported as pending. (kob.com, Albuquerque, N.M., 5/7/25)

In Chattanooga, Tenn., a 30-year-old man met up with another man to purchase two items on the evening of May 8. During the purchase, the seller allegedly put a firearm to the buyer's face and made demands. The buyer exited his vehicle and another man who was with the seller reportedly got into the driver's seat. However, the robbery victim, still under threat, drew his own gun and exchanged fire with the robbers, striking the one who'd gotten into the vehicle. That suspect was arrested, transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries and charged with carjacking and attempted murder. Reports are unclear on whether the man posing as a seller was detained. (wdef.com, Chattanooga, Tenn., 5/9/25)

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We the PEOPLE Versus the E

By **Charles C.W. Cooke**

LITES

“A FANATIC,” WROTE WINSTON Churchill, “is one who can’t change his mind and won’t change the subject.” By this measure, how else might one describe the contemporary American gun-control movement, which, despite profound changes in the American political scene and the mountain of evidence that has been arrayed against its claims, has managed to maintain precisely the same set of talking points for more than 50 years in a row?

Perhaps the most stubborn talking point of all is the persistent, if thoroughly absurd, claim that the American public is clamoring for stricter gun control, but that it is perpetually thwarted in that endeavor by the “elites.”

In fact, the opposite is true.

For decades, the defense of the Second Amendment has been a grassroots enterprise, while attempts to render it a dead letter have been mostly the preserve of a small group of very wealthy and connected elitists.

In 2008, just before the U.S. Supreme Court issued its decision in *D.C. v. Heller*, this dichotomy was on full display. Ahead of that ruling, almost every newspaper in the country insisted that it was patently ridiculous to believe that the phrase “the right of the people to keep and bear arms” meant, in fact, that the people enjoy a right to keep and bear arms. And yet the public—despite being deeply divided on a whole range of other political

Hold
Gun makers
Accountable!!

When the U.S. Supreme Court heard *Smith & Wesson v. Estados Unidos Mexicanos* last March, our photographer found just one anti-gun activist present. This, as is often the case, is in direct contrast to those who stand up for this freedom, such as the NRA members shown on the left.

Photo opposite: Forrest MacCormack; above: Peter Fountain

Sandy Hook
PROMISE

In what those who appreciate our freedom must see as an ironic gesture, former President Joe Biden gave billionaire and gun-control funder Michael Bloomberg the Presidential Medal of Freedom (above). Just above is Ron Conway, an elitist financial backer of gun-control groups.

questions—emphatically disagreed. Per a Gallup poll taken at the time, 80% of voters understood that the Second Amendment protected an individual right. How's that for a clear example of "We the People"?

This ought not to have been surprising, as the right to keep and bear arms has been a populist staple since before the time of the Founding. In the *Federalist Papers*, James Madison observed matter-of-factly that, back in Europe—including, to some extent, in Britain—"the governments are afraid to trust the people with arms." But, as he made clear, America was to be different.

Since then, alas, not all governments in this country have heeded his instruction. But the *people* have largely held fast to their freedom. It is undoubtedly the case that the inclusion of the Second Amendment within the U.S. Bill of Rights has helped to protect the right to keep and bear arms in ways that would not be possible in other nations. But, ultimately, the strongest protection has been the citizenry itself, which, unlike those of Britain, Australia, Canada and most of Europe, has sedulously refused to relinquish its guns.

Time and time again, voters have been subjected to a full-court press staged by high-profile figures within the media, academia, Hollywood and the political class, and time and time again, those voters have simply refused to acquiesce.

And why would they? As a matter of elementary democracy, it would make little sense for an electorate that merely *loans* its authority to the government to allow that government to permanently disarm it. But, even if that were of no concern, the sheer physical size of the United States renders gun control a presumptive dead letter. Simply put, there is no way that the average American could realistically outsource his security to the state—even if, for some strange reason, he earnestly wanted to do so.

There are, of course, certain people among us who have the power, influence and resources to surround themselves with armed guards. But, by definition, those people are outliers—a minority within a minority within a minority. Mathematically, it is thus inevitable that the United States will play host to two unevenly sized groups: In one, there will be the handful of citizens who can plausibly inoculate themselves against threats without having to own or carry their own guns; and, in the other, there will be everyone else. As with the First Amendment, it is those who worry least about losing their own rights who tend to be the most willing to give them up.

This refusal continues to confound the country's leading anti-gun voices. But, remarkably enough, this bewilderment has done nothing to persuade them to abandon the assumptions that underpin their demands. Peruse any tirade against the private ownership of firearms in the United States and you will see all manner of ostensibly democratic terms—"common sense," "public safety," "stronger together"—that, if they were to be taken at face value, would imply the existence of a mass movement against the Second Amendment. And yet, happily, no such mass movement ever materializes.

Photo top: Alex Brandon/AP; bottom: Charles Sykes/AP

Consider the most-dramatic shift in America's firearms law in recent years: the incredible growth of constitutional carry. In 2002, only one state, Vermont, had what we now call "constitutional carry." As this is being written, 29 states had adopted the system. And, to this day, not *one* of those states—not one!—has so much as held a *hearing* to discuss repealing or paring back its changes. Nor, for that matter, has there been a single documented case of a governor or lawmaker losing his seat over the policy. Rather, the pattern has always been the same: First, constitutional carry is proposed; next, its opponents call it "extreme" and predict that it will lead to electoral disaster; and, finally ... nothing happens, and everyone who was involved in the project is reelected.

At the federal level, the story is the same. Naturally, not every presidential election is fought over the issue of gun control. But, when the topic *has* been prominently raised, as it was in 1988 by Michael Dukakis, in 2000 by Al Gore, in 2016 by Hillary Clinton and in 2024 by Kamala Harris, the results have spoken for themselves. In 2012, during his successful reelection campaign, Barack Obama benefited from his decision to remain quiet about the issue. When, during the 2014 midterms, he dramatically changed his tune, he and his party were given a shellacking.

There are well over 100 million legal gun owners in America. Clearly, this is a right that the people enjoy.

Photo: Forrest MacCormack

Gun-control groups are not large grassroots groups because people largely want to keep their freedom.

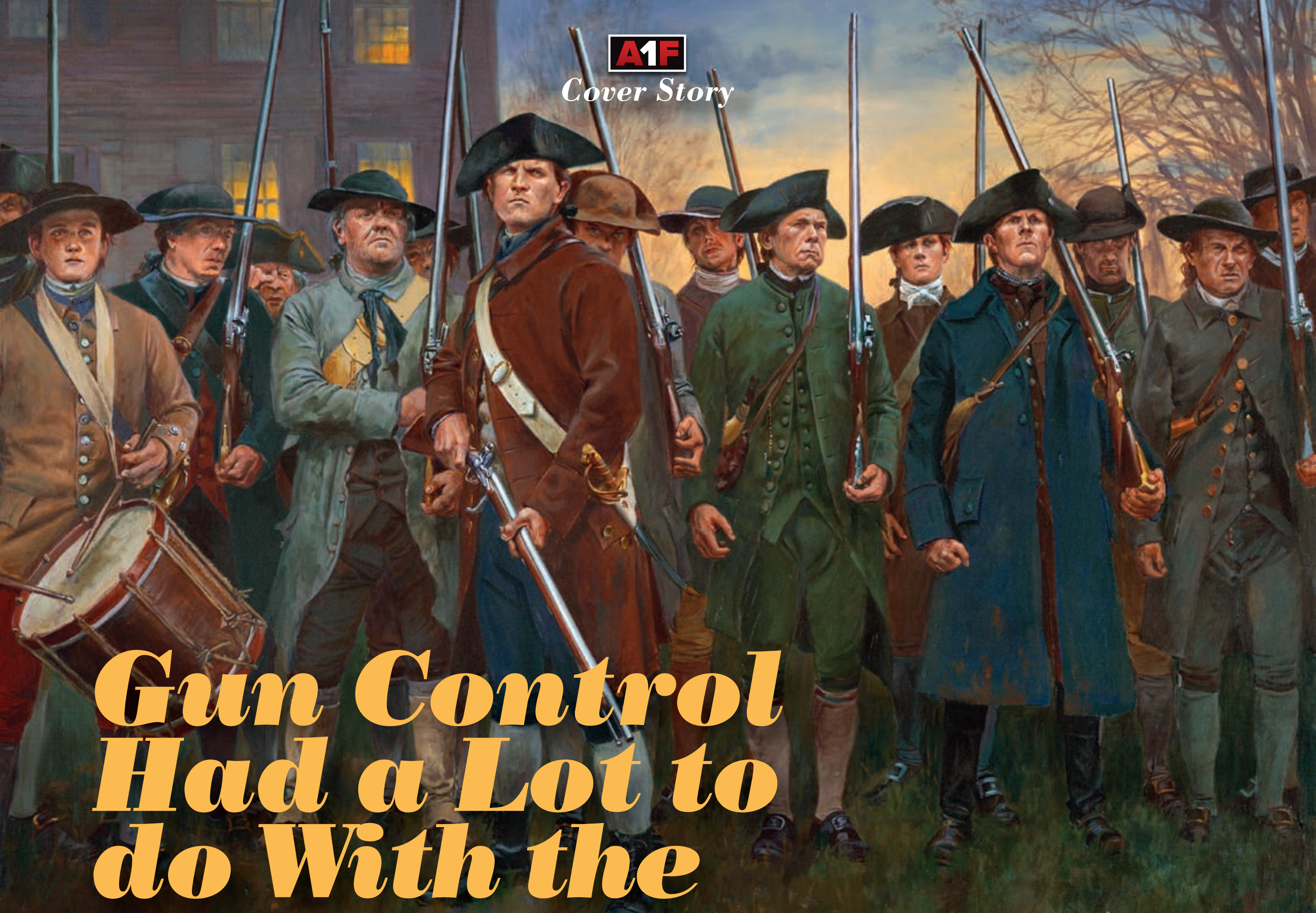
There is a lesson there, for those willing to hear it. As a matter of cynical habit, the press likes to cast gun owners as marginal figures in American society, and even to suggest that they are slowly going extinct. But this was never true—and it's even less true now than it ever was. Not only are there more firearms in America than people, but the coalition that is buying them is steadily growing more diverse. Between 2019 and 2021, women accounted for around half of all new gun purchases, while, over the same period, purchases by blacks increased by nearly 60%. Since the 1990s, firearms purchases are also up substantially among Hispanics and Asian-Americans. Indeed, between 2020 and 2023, approximately 26.2 million Americans—that's *individuals*, not households—bought a gun for the first time. Evidently, the citizens of the United States did not get the mainstream media's memo.

When advancing their arguments, the champions of harsher gun control like to pretend that the mere possession of a firearm is liable to turn anyone into a public nuisance. But this, quite obviously, is ludicrous. The vast majority of Americans do not fear their neighbors, or their friends, or their parents or themselves; they fear the small number of pariahs who willfully scoff at the law. When they imagine using a firearm, they imagine using it in self-defense, not to create mischief or chaos. As such, they understand intuitively that there is little to be gained from them denying themselves their rights, because they are not the problem in the first instance. For this reason, mawkish calls for self-sacrifice ineluctably fall on deaf ears. The solution being presented is self-evidently no solution at all, and, in consequence, the public has no desire to pursue it.

This dynamic has tangible political effects. Typically, America's gun-control organizations are run from the top down, with the bulk of their funding coming from rich activists such as Michael Bloomberg and Ron Conway or from government sources such as the California Violence Intervention and Prevention Program, the New York State Office of Gun Violence Prevention and various federal agencies. Despite its folksy name, Everytown for Gun Safety is primarily funded by one person, Michael Bloomberg, while the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence is disproportionately supported by major donors and Left-wing foundations. By contrast, the political activity of pro-Second Amendment campaigners tends to be distributed across the country, while institutions such as the NRA are funded by membership dues and small-dollar donations, as well as by volunteers who willingly donate their time. In this respect, the two sides of the issue neatly reflect the ideas that motivate them. The anti-gun side is centralized, disciplinarian and heavily reliant upon the beneficence of a handful of powerful figures. The pro-gun side is dispersed, individualistic and representative of a genuine civic sensibility.

One sees the fruits of this difference when one compares protests and rallies organized by anti-gun organizations to protests and rallies organized by advocates of the right to keep and bear arms. Anti-gun protests are

Continued on p. 51



Gun Control Had a Lot to do With the Shot Heard ’Round the World

By **Stephen P. Halbrook**

“DISPERSE YOU REBELS—Damn you, throw down your Arms and disperse!” shouted British Major John Pitcairn at the militiamen who were assembled on Lexington’s common. “Upon which the Troops huzz’d, and immediately one or two Officers discharged their Pistols, which were instantaneously followed by the Firing of four or five of the Soldiers, then there seemed to be a general discharge from the whole Body.”

Art: Don Troiani; powder horn courtesy of Tom Grinslade, photo: NRA Museum

So went a widely published American version recounting that fateful day of April 19, 1775.

The militiamen who fought the British at Lexington and Concord consisted of able-bodied males aged 16 through 60. All provided their own private muskets, except for a few poor men who had to borrow them from other colonists or the town. Militia Col. James Barrett's 15-year-old granddaughter, Meliscent, taught the other young women of the town how to assemble cartridges. One of the wounded at Lexington was listed as "Prince Easterbrooks (a Negro-Man)."

After the skirmish at Lexington, the Redcoats marched on Concord, where they searched houses and destroyed arms and military stores. One account verified that "even women had firelocks. One was seen to fire a blunderbuss between her father and husband from their windows." As many as 3,500 militiamen fought the Redcoats.

Frederick MacKenzie, a British fusilier, recorded that, during the British retreat back to Boston, the Americans ambushed them from houses and behind walls and hedges. He conceded, "These fellows were generally good marksmen, and many of them used long guns made for Duck-Shooting."

That observation reaffirms how the colonists adapted their arms to both military and sporting purposes. Lord Percy noted that "many of them concealed themselves in houses, & advanced within 10 yards to fire at me & other officers, tho' they were morally certain of being put to death themselves in an instant."

The painting on the left is by Don Troiani and is of John Parker and other patriots who formed on Lexington Commons. The rifle is from the NRA Musuem and is of the type many carried to this battle.

But what transpired *after* the day of the shot heard 'round the world was perhaps more significant as a motivation to recognize the right to keep and bear arms in a bill of rights. That event was Gen. Thomas Gage's confiscation of the arms of the inhabitants of Boston.

Fearing that the townsmen might rise up and support their countrymen, Gen. Gage connived to disarm them. He promised the town committee at their meeting on April 23, "that upon the inhabitants in general lodging their arms in Faneuil Hall, or any other convenient place, under the care of the selectmen, marked with the names of the respective owners, that all such inhabitants as are inclined, may depart from the town … . And that the arms aforesaid at a suitable time would be return'd to the owners." (Attested Copy of Proceedings Between Gage and Selectmen, April 23, 1775.)

According to the contemporary historian Richard Frothingham, "[T]he people delivered to the selectmen 1778 fire-arms [muskets], 634 pistols, 973 bayonets, and 38 blunderbusses." That was a substantial number, given that Boston had 16,000 inhabitants, that patriots had already sneaked most of the arms outside of the city and that many arms were likely secreted.

There survives "A List of the Persons Names who lodge their Arms with the Selectmen pursuant to a Vote by them passed yesterday & also of the Number by each delivered." (In *The Founders' Second Amendment* (2008), I wrote that no such list was known to exist, but I finally found it.) It shows a total of 321 names with the types and quantities of arms each surrendered. The majority turned in just one musket (recorded as a "gun"), many of which included a bayonet.

The most prominent name on the list was Paul Revere, but he was the son of the famous patriot, who left Boston with the family. Paul Jr., who stayed in Boston to take care of the family's properties, turned in three guns, a bayonet and a pair of pistols. The merchant and patriot John Rowe, who kept an extensive diary of the times, surrendered two guns. Doctor John Sprague, who was active in the patriot cause, turned in one gun. John Ruddock, whose father was a patriot leader and justice of the peace, was listed as having turned in two brass blunderbusses, two iron blunderbusses, three pistols, 15 guns and three more blunderbusses!

A Mr. Cookson, apparently one of the sons of John Cookson (who famously advertised repeating muskets for sale in 1756), turned in a chest of gun and pistol barrels, locks and gunsmith wares and tools.

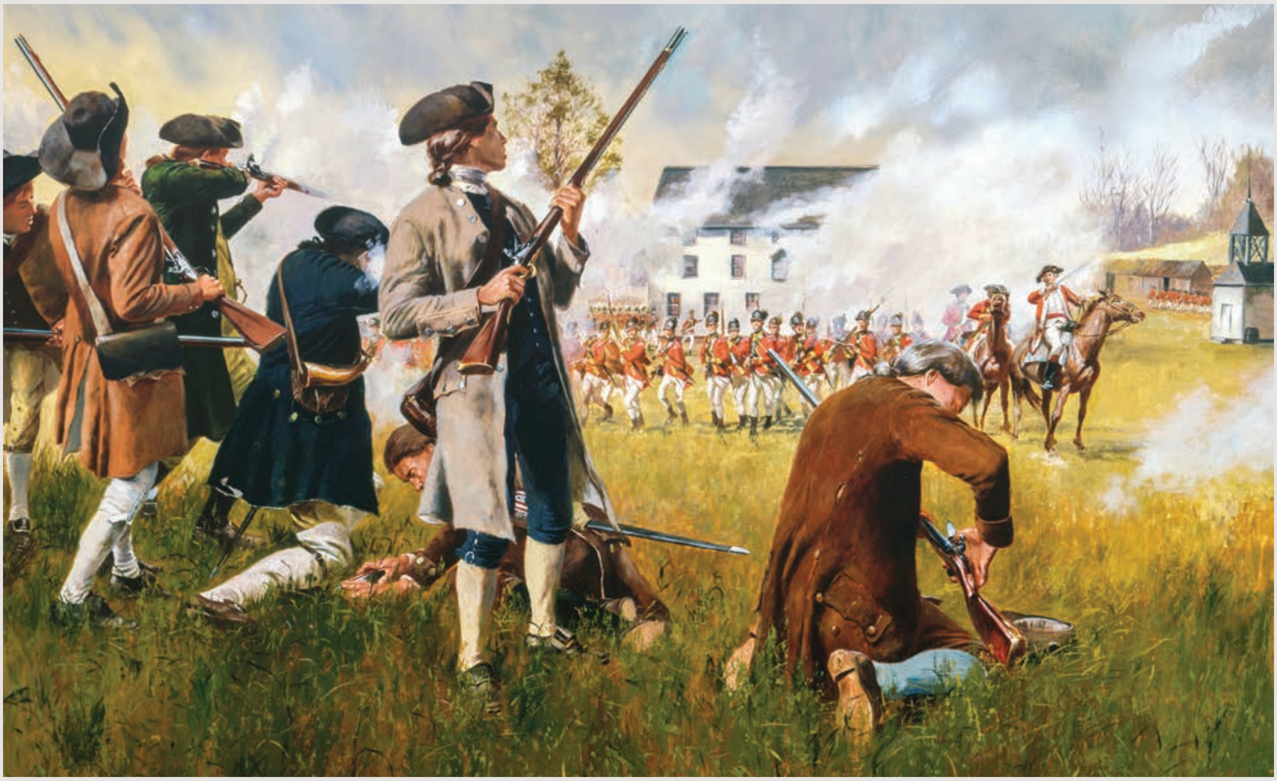
The inventories exhibit a well-armed society.

While the agreement called for the temporary safekeeping of the arms in the hands of the town selectmen, Gage planned all along to have his soldiers seize them. British Lieutenant John Barker recorded in his diary on April 27, the day the arms were surrendered:

The Townspeople have to day given up their Arms to the Select Men, who are to deliver them over to the Gen[era]l. I fancy this will quiet him a little for he seemed apprehensive that if the Lines shou'd be attack'd the Townspeople wou'd raise and assist; they wou'd not give up their Arms without the Gen[era]l promising that they shou'd have leave to quit the Town as many as pleased.

On the same day as the arms surrender, Bostonians were told at a town meeting that Gen. Gage would permit them to leave by land

Gun photo: Peter Fountain



This painting, also from Troiani, shows the opening volley on Lexington Green on April 19, 1775.

or sea, but that they must apply for passes to do so. A sample of one of one of the passes reads: *Boston, May, 1775. Permit [name illegible], together with his family, consisting of seven persons, and their effects, to pass over the lines between sunrise and sunset … . No arms nor ammunition is allowed to pass nor merchandize.*

Procuring passes was difficult from the beginning. John Rowe noted in his diary on April 27: "The General has given Leave for All People to leave the Town that Choose with their Effects." But the very next day he wrote: "This day I apply'd to get a Pass to go out with my Effects but could not prevail."

A letter reprinted in the *Pennsylvania Reporter* on May 8 stated: *The communications between this town [Boston] and country is entirely stopped up, and not a soul permitted to go in or out without a pass. This day, the Governor has disarmed all the inhabitants, after giving his word and honor that solders should not molest or plunder them … .*

Another letter from Boston complained: "Guards are appointed to examine all trunks, boxes, beds, and everything else to be carried out; these have proceeded to such extremities, as to take from the poor people a single loaf of bread … ."

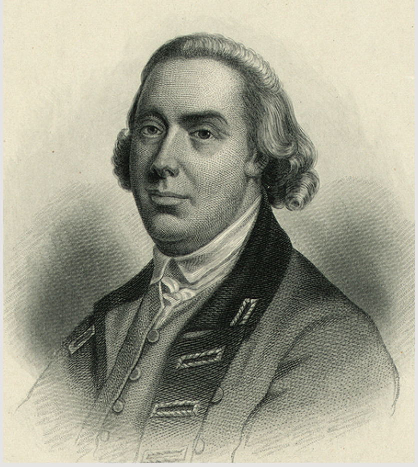
Gage was not so gullible as to believe that the inhabitants turned in all of their arms, and he used such assumed failure to comply as an excuse to prevent the inhabitants from departing Boston.

Dr. David Ramsay wrote, "The select-men gave repeated assurances that the inhabitants had delivered up their arms, but as a cover for violating the agreement, general Gage issued a proclamation, in which he asserted that he had full proof to the contrary. A few might have secreted some favourite arms, but nearly all the training arms were delivered up."

The "training arms" referred to muskets used for militia training. These arms were quite large and would have been harder to hide than smaller shoulder arms and pistols.

Sparked by these events, patriots outside of Boston mobilized.

Gen. Gage wrote to Lord Dartmouth on May 13: *Ever since the Skirmish of the 19th Ultimo the Avenues to this Town have been possessed by large Bodys of Men from all Places in this Province, Connecticut, New Hampshire & ca and they have collected Artillery and Military Stores that had been deposited in various parts of the Country.*



Gen. Thomas Gage commanded British forces in Boston and the early part of the war.

Art top: Don Troiani; below: The New York Public Library Digital Collections

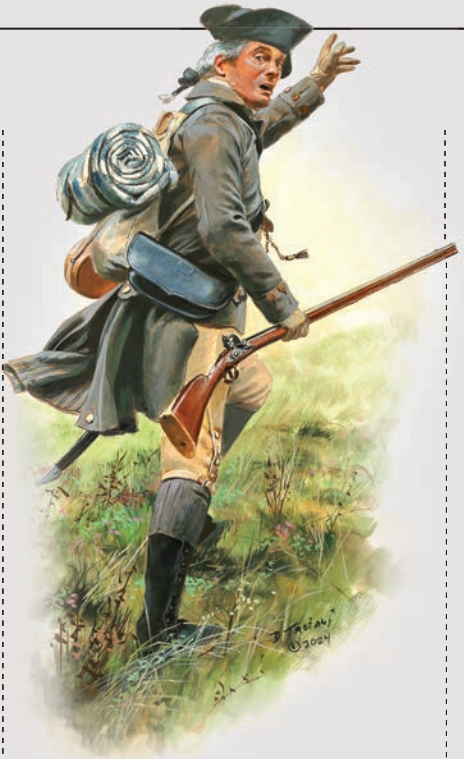
In response to an enquiry from Connecticut Gov. Jonathan Trumbull, Gage replied, “You ask why is the town of Boston now shut up? I can only refer you, for an answer, to those bodies of armed men, who now surround the town, and prevent all access to it … . I am surrounded by an armed country … .”

Lexington and Concord, then Boston, were just the first steps to disarm and put the Americans under foot. The *Virginia Gazette*, June 24, 1775, reported “that on the landing of the General Officers, who have sailed for America, a proclamation will be published throughout the provinces inviting the Americans to deliver up their arms by a certain stipulated day; and that such of the colonists as are afterwards proved to carry arms shall be deemed rebels, and be punished accordingly.”

Gage next declared martial law and offered a pardon to all who would lay down their arms except Samuel Adams and John Hancock. The proclamation issued by Gen. Burgoyne described the events at Lexington and Concord as an ambush in which thousands “of armed persons, … from behind walls and lurking holes, attacked a detachment of the king’s troops … .” It continued that “I do hereby, in his majesty’s name, offer and promise his most gracious pardon to all persons who shall forthwith lay down their arms … .”

An American penned a widely published poem entitled “Tom Gage’s Proclamation,” which told how the general had sent an expedition to “disarm” the men of Concord and how he afterwards reflected:

Yet e’er draw the vengeful sword
I have thought fit to send abroad
This present gracious Proclamation,
Of purpose mild the demonstration;
That whoseoe’er keeps gun or pistol,
I’ll spoil the motion of his systole … .
But every one that will lay down
His hanger bright, and musket brown,
Shall not be beat, nor bruis’d, nor bang’d,
Much less for past offences, hang’d … .
But every other mother’s son,
The instant he destroys his gun,
(For thus doth run the King’s command)
May, if he will, come kiss my hand … .
Meanwhile let all, and every one
Who loves his life, forsake his gun … .



Art: Don Troiani

The Declaration of Causes of Taking Up Arms of July 6, 1775, drafted by Thomas Jefferson and John Dickinson and passed by the Continental Congress, protested Gage’s seizure of arms as follows:

The inhabitants of Boston being confined within that town by the General their Governor, and having, in order to procure their dismission, entered into a treaty with him, it was stipulated that the said inhabitants having deposited their arms with their own magistrates, should have liberty to depart, taking with them their other effects. They accordingly delivered up their arms, but in open violation of honor, in defiance of the obligation of treaties, which even savage nations esteem sacred, the Governor ordered the arms deposited as aforesaid, that they might be preserved for their owners, to be seized by a body of soldiers; detained the greatest part of the inhabitants in the town, and compelled the few who were permitted to retire, to leave their most valuable effects behind.

A Virginia gentleman wrote to a friend in Scotland on Sept. 1, 1775: “We are all in arms, exercising and training old and young to the use of the gun. No person goes abroad without his sword, or gun, or pistols.”

After the British army abandoned Boston on March 17, 1776, the selectmen returned and discovered that the surrendered arms that had been stored in Faneuil Hall were damaged or destroyed. What was left was sold as replacement parts and scrap.

Gage’s confiscation and destruction of their arms contributed to the Americans’ historical mistrust of government control of their firearms. His promise that surrendered firearms would be returned to their owners was a lie. The longstanding American aversion to firearm registration that continues today is rooted in the historical experience that it will lead to confiscation.

VOICES
AMENDMENT
A1F.com

Go to A1F.com or NRA Media’s YouTube channel for a video interview on this topic with Stephen Halbrook.

Attorney Stephen P. Halbrook is a senior fellow with the Independent Institute. His latest books are *America’s Rifle: The Case for the AR-15* and *The Right to Bear Arms: A Constitutional Right of the People or a Privilege of the Ruling Class?* See **stephenhalbrook.com**.)

Gun Owners to Know

Shooting Straight with JD Longo

By **Frank Miniter,** *Editor in Chief*

Historians have long asked whether troubled times create great leaders or if great leaders were simply there all along, awaiting the chance to stand out. I have always thought the Gary Cooper hero in *High Noon* was more accurate. That hero had grown quietly over a lifetime, so his character was there ready and waiting to do what was right despite the odds. The villains in that tale just showed him for who he already was. President Donald Trump's (R) reaction—his fist raised and the words "fight, fight, fight" bellowing from him—after the first assassination attempt was such a moment. Trump's character had been built over a lifetime and so came roaring through at a time of great peril.

Interestingly, on that stage was another man whose character has been tested and has grown in a very American way. His name is JD Longo. He served in the U.S. Marines in Afghanistan. He is now the mayor of Slippery Rock, Pa. We bring him into these pages because he is a poignant example of an individual who stands against the politically correct mainstream to lead us toward freedom.

A1F: I've looked at your résumé and I find it to be a hero's journey of sorts. You served your nation overseas and then came home, saw problems in your hometown, and ran for mayor to fix them.

Photo top: Evan Vucci/AP; all other images courtesy of JD Longo

MAYOR
JONDAVID R. LONGO
CITIZENS FOR LONGO

Longo: When I joined Army Junior ROTC, I joined their marksmanship team. That's when I started to understand just how deeply ingrained marksmanship and the use of rifles and pistols is to our history as Americans. After high school, I went into the United States Marine Corps, where I enlisted as an infantry rifleman. Of course, I got all sorts of exposure to firearms then. I was 17 years old when I joined the Corps. I turned 18 on Paris Island, South Carolina. The Marines are a lasting brotherhood. That experience shaped me.

A1F: You served in Afghanistan. What role did you play over there?

Longo: I spent six years in the United States Marine Corps. I was in Afghanistan from September 2010 to March of 2011. I served in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in the Global War on Terror as an infantry rifleman. We conducted plenty of presence patrols. We did some combat operations, of course. But the thing that I enjoyed the most was trying to be the ambassador of goodwill and the protector of the downtrodden and the disenfranchised there. I spent a lot of time in the regimental quick-reaction force, which meant that I got to operate in a 150-square-kilometer area of operations—mostly situated in the southwest corner of Afghanistan.

It was commonplace that the fighters of the Taliban were cowardly; they knew that they couldn't stand toe-to-toe with Marines. And so, they liked to take potshots and then run and hide. They did have some dangerous snipers.

We would oftentimes help to protect convoys that were bringing things like school supplies or fertilizer or food or even medical equipment to places in impoverished Afghanistan. But, of course, at the end of the day, our main mission was to make sure the enemy knew we were there.

A1F: It must have driven you crazy when you saw what former President Joe Biden (D) did as he pulled our troops out?

Longo: Absolutely. Let me start by saying that if any of us were to have let one weapon carelessly fall into enemy hands, it's quite possible our career in the United States military would have been over. So, the fact that they left billions of dollars' worth of equipment behind for our enemies to use, including so many firearms which are going to be turned against us and against our allies in the region, really hurts me. But nothing hurts more than the idea that so many made sacrifices, but that these sacrifices were disrespected by the Biden administration.

The thing that really sticks with me more than anything is I got the opportunity to meet the parents of the Marines and sailors who died at Abbey Gate in Afghanistan during the botched pullout. Getting to look them in the eyes still shakes me.

But I think it's really important that, despite all of that, we're making sure we're telling those people and all of the many people who served in Afghanistan and Iraq that their service was not in vain, because at the end of the day, we did exactly what we were tasked with doing. We were ambassadors of goodwill. We were great representatives of the freedoms and the liberties that we enjoy. I think that is going to continue to inspire and instill a sense of hope in generations of Afghanis and Iraqis.

Mayor JD Longo campaigned for President Donald Trump and had just spoken in Butler, Pa., when an assassin attempted to murder the president.

A1F: Right, I don't think the struggle for freedom is ever in vain. We may win, we may lose and fall backward, but I don't feel like it's in vain. Good things come out of it. And, more recently, it was very heartening to hear President Donald Trump mention that they'd caught the lead terrorist in that attack.
Longo: I jumped off the couch when I heard that. I'm almost not even surprised that, during the State of the Union speech, the Democrats decided that this capture was not worth standing up and clapping for. I just think that, no matter what your disagreements are with the president or with the Republican Party, surely we can all agree as Americans united under our Star-Spangled Banner, that was a good thing.

A1F: You came home after carrying arms overseas and you decided to run for mayor. What led to that?
Longo: Anybody can tell you who owns property, that when you start paying property taxes, you really start paying attention to the things that your local government and your school board are doing. And so, when I decided to put a down payment on a house in downtown Slippery Rock and to enroll in Slippery Rock University, where I would go on to earn a bachelor's in history and a master's in education, I realized that my property taxes had been raised twice—almost 20% in just a five-year period—and yet our roads were still terrible.

We didn't have a 24/7 police department, and you couldn't get anyone on the phone at the borough office if you ever needed anything. And so, I thought to myself: Why is it that we're paying these exorbitant taxes if our constituent services aren't matching up?

"The local government we had was not in step with our freedom, so I ran for mayor."

The local government we had was also opposed to our right to keep and bear arms. They were not in step with American freedom.

So, I ran for mayor and I won. I'm glad to say that we haven't raised property taxes in the seven years since I took office.

A1F: The Second Amendment is such a keystone issue that, when you meet someone who's pro-freedom, pro-Second Amendment, they tend to be judicious across many other areas of their politics. Have you found that to be true?
Longo: I think you're absolutely right. I have definitely witnessed that myself. I think it's because the protectors and defenders of the Second Amendment are by definition protectors and defenders of the U.S. Constitution.

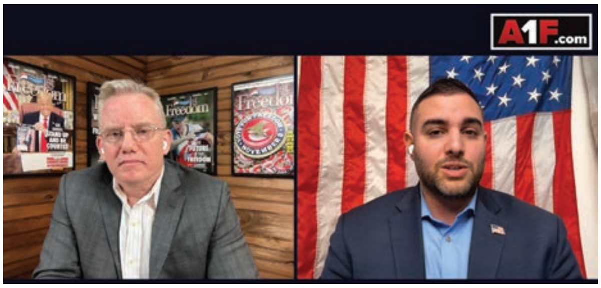
Time and again, I hear people on the left side of the aisle say that the Constitution is a living, breathing document that they can just change on a whim. To that, I say baloney. What I'm trying to say is that if you and I respect the Second Amendment of the Constitution, it means that we actually hold dear and, in fact, hold sacred and holy our U.S. Bill of Rights.

A1F: You were on the stage in Butler, Pa., when that assassin tried to kill President Trump. Tell us about that.
Longo: I was there that day. I've been very blessed to help in the campaigns of the president. I got to speak on quite a few stages and to serve as a surrogate for the Trump

TRUMP VANCE

JD Longo is shown here with Vice President JD Vance (left) and with FBI Director Kash Patel.

Photos courtesy of JD Longo



Go to A1F.com or NRA Media's YouTube channel to see a full-length video interview with JD Longo.

campaign. I even went on to become an elector for President Trump and Vice President JD Vance.

On July 13, 2024, in Butler, Pa.—which is less than 20 miles away from my home of Slippery Rock—I was asked to give a few remarks and to lead that rally in our most honored Pledge of Allegiance, which is one of my favorite things to do as a veteran and as a proud American.

After speaking, I was escorted backstage with my wife, who was nine weeks pregnant at the time. We got to speak with the president and to have a good conversation with him. I told him, "Mr. President. We're working very hard for you, sir, and Butler County is going to deliver Pennsylvania for you so that we can get you back to the White House."

About 20 minutes later, he took the stage. He walked up to his podium and this awful lunatic decided to murder him. Unfortunately, a hero firefighter, Corey Comperatore, was seated directly behind us. The would-be assassin killed this hero and wounded others before being stopped.

But, despite the horror and the awful sadness of that situation, President Trump showed such incredible resolve. He showed in that moment that he's the leader that this nation needs. I saw him raise his fist in defiance of that moment to let us all know that he was safe and that he wasn't going to stop. And then, of course, he said those fabled words: "Fight, fight, fight." It was just an incredible piece of history to witness firsthand.

The other thing that stood out to me was the fact that nobody in the crowd seemed to panic at all. It was almost as if there was no fear. A lot of it was shock. But, you know, if it weren't for President Trump's resolve, I think that people would have panicked.

A1F: So, going forward, how do you see freedom in Pennsylvania and across this nation? Are you hopeful?

Longo: I'm more hopeful now than ever, after the momentum that we gained in 2024 in getting President Trump and Vice President Vance to Washington to lead this country in the right direction. Seeing Pennsylvania vote for freedom makes me even more hopeful.

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NRA ATLANTA • 2025
ANNUAL MEETINGS & EXHIBITS

Your NRA On Full Display

At the 154th Annual Meeting & Exhibits, more than 70,000 freedom-loving Americans gathered in celebration of our great association and the Second Amendment it protects.

By NRA Media Staff

The city of Atlanta—whose new motto is "Where You Belong"—warmly welcomed NRA members this spring, extending a large dose of Southern hospitality during NRA's 154th Annual Meetings & Exhibits. The gathering of more than 70,000 members took place from April 24-27 at the Georgia World Congress Center, where NRA showcased in grand style what it does for its members through dynamic seminars, interactive workshops and celebrity entertainment. Throughout the weekend, NRA staff and enthusiastic volunteers gave those attendees a memorable and productive weekend.

The doors opened to the Exhibit Hall on Friday, where NRA members and guests were treated to more than 600 booths or displays—14 acres' worth—from the shooting sports and outdoor industries, guides and outfitters, and NRA's gun-collecting affiliates.

The NRA Women's Leadership Forum Brunch & Auction featured both silent and exciting live auctions. Keynote speaker Hogan Gidley offered a perspective on working inside the Trump White House, highlighting the administration's wins in the first days of President Trump's second term.

A MEETING OF MEMBERS

On Saturday, it was down to business at the 154th Annual Meeting of Members. By tradition, the oldest and youngest Life members in attendance were recognized. For Norris Jernigan, a 100-year-old World War II veteran, there was no competition. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1943 and eventually served with the 509th Composite Group—which dropped atomic bombs on Japan, ending World War II. The youngest Life member in attendance was teenager Mason Brodie Hague.

NRA EVP and CEO Doug Hamlin took to the podium to emphasize his commitment to rebuilding the trust of the staff, industry, donors and especially NRA members, highlighting the all-new leadership team. "NRA does everything. We have museums, consumer shows, range-development programs, media, lobbying, youth programs, women's programs, education and training … NRA does it all. NRA played a huge role on November 5—democracy in action—in electing President Donald J. Trump," Hamlin said. "Now is not the time to be complacent, and the future is bright if we work together."

Veterans were front and center at the 154th NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits. Norris Jernigan (top), a 100-year-old World War II Army Air Force veteran, was the oldest Life member at the 154th Meeting of Members. Vietnam Medal of Honor recipient and Marine Maj. Gen. James Livingston received the first Henry Golden Boy Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Limited Edition rifle. Patriot and Marine veteran Mark "Oz" Geist (co-author of "13 Hours") served as the emcee for the Freedom Experience concert Saturday night. Bill Bachenberg (l.) was elected and sworn in as NRA President.

Outstanding clubs were recognized, and President Trump thanked NRA members and staff in a video address. Brotherhood Designs presented a large United States flag created from repurposed fire hoses in honor of Corey Comperatore, the volunteer firefighter who died shielding his wife and daughter during the 2024 assassination attempt on Trump in Butler, Pa.

After reports from NRA officers, members voted on four resolutions; two did not pass, one was referred to the Board of Directors for further consideration, and one that called for an NRA-members-only website passed by a wide margin.

NRA-ILA TURNS 50

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the NRA Institute for Legislative Action (NRA-ILA). "In 1975, if law students heard about the Second Amendment at all, they were taught it preserved the states' ability to maintain organized militias and it had nothing to do with the individual right to own and use firearms for private purposes. This was the backdrop for the creation of ILA," said NRA-ILA Executive Director John Commerford. "Its mandate was, and remains, to protect the Second Amendment in the legislatures and courts, to support pro-gun candidates for office and to educate the public on the right to keep and bear arms. Consider where we are now after five decades of ILA's work. It is now black-letter law that the Second Amendment protects an individual right to keep and bear arms for self-defense and other legitimate purposes."

NRA Executive Vice President and CEO Doug Hamlin (top) at the 154th Annual Meeting of members said, "Our focus is rebuilding our programs and services. We must come together as we look to the future." At the meeting (r.), a resolution calling for a new members' web page passed. NRA's 2025 leadership team (above) includes (l.-r.): EVP and CEO Doug Hamlin, President Bill Bachenberg, First Vice President Mark Vaughan and Second Vice President Rocky Marshall. The Freedom Experience concert featured legendary musicians John Rich (below), Big Kenny and Cowboy Troy. For three days in the Exhibit Hall, members were treated to 14 acres of guns and gear.

Photos by NRA staff

The NRA Institute for Legislative Action celebrated its 50th anniversary. "The first 50 years of ILA leave us with a huge responsibility: To leave the right to keep and bear arms in a better place than where we found it," said NRA-ILA Executive Director John Commerford (above). At an exclusive event for NRA Ring of Freedom and VIP Ticket Package holders, commentator and author Katie Pavlich (l.) conducted a one-on-one interview with EVP and CEO Doug Hamlin. During the NRA Board Meeting, the NRA National Awards were presented, including the Women's Wildlife Management Conservation Scholarships. Recipients Sarah Hougard and Libby Babcock were congratulated by EVP and CEO Doug Hamlin, past President Bob Barr and Executive Director of General Operations Josh Savani (below, l.).

THE HEADLINE EVENTS: CELEBRATING FREEDOM & SERVICE

On Friday and Saturday nights, our Second Amendment freedoms were celebrated along with gratitude extended to those who have served our nation in uniform. The sold-out NRA National Foundation Banquet & Auction raised money for the future of the shooting sports. Henry Repeating Arms, a sponsor of the event, presented the first-ever 50th Anniversary Vietnam War Tribute Golden Boy rifle to retired U.S. Marine Corp Maj. Gen. Mike Livingston, who was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during the battle of Dai Do. There was also a patriotic presentation of "Old Glory" by U.S. Navy veteran and motivational speaker Vann Norris. It was a night of fun, fellowship and celebration of our veterans.

For members who wanted to support The NRA Foundation at other times, the popular Wall of Guns raffle was running all weekend.

The Freedom Experience concert on Saturday night began with the presentation of our nation's colors and a performance of the national anthem by U.S. Marine veteran John Hensley. The evening's host was another Marine, Mark "Oz" Geist, co-author of *13 Hours*. Musical performances by Will Jones and headliner Big & Rich—proudly led by NRA member John Rich—topped off the night. Rich and his pal, Big Kenny, were joined by Cowboy Troy for a night of music that paid tribute to our Second Amendment freedom and honored our veterans.

CONTINUED AND NEW EVENTS

NRA's Education and Training Division invited all NRA trainers to attend a two-day Inaugural Trainers' Symposium, which included seminars from industry leaders such as Mantis and Next Level Training. Attendees learned how to develop and improve as an instructor and business owner. This event joined The NRA Foundation's Annual Firearms Law Seminar, the NRA Clubs & Associations Workshop and the NRA-ILA Grassroots Workshop.

On the last day of the meeting, more than 600 NRA members gathered for the National Prayer Breakfast, during which actor and faith-based filmmaker Kevin Sorbo provided an inspirational message of faith and freedom.

Photos by NRA staff

The 45th and 47th President of the United States Donald J. Trump provided a powerful video message to NRA members (r.). NRA Media's 2025 Golden Bullseye Pioneer Award was presented to Bob Scott, Smith & Wesson's chairman of the board (above).

GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS

NRA's Board of Directors meeting, held after the show, ushered in a new crop of directors and addressed the business of the association. The officer elections and most of the meeting were conducted in open session.

The NRA Board of Directors elected Bill Bachenberg, who was nominated from the floor, as NRA President. "I am deeply honored to be entrusted by my colleagues on the Board to serve as president of the NRA," Bachenberg said. "We are at a pivotal point in our association's history as we work to reach out to new members, build upon the trust of existing members, and provide the gold-standard programs that American gun owners expect. As the nation's oldest civil-rights organization, the NRA plays a critical role in protecting and advancing freedom in America."

Doug Hamlin was unanimously reelected as NRA Executive Vice President & CEO. "As we conclude a very successful NRA Annual Meeting in Atlanta, I know one thing for sure: NRA's best days are ahead of us," Hamlin said. "This association is moving forward, full speed ahead, to support the shooting sports, train new gun owners and defend the sacred right to self-defense."

Also elected unanimously were Mark Vaughan as NRA First Vice President and Rocky Marshall as NRA Second Vice President. Hamlin reappointed John Commerford as the Executive Director of the NRA-ILA and Josh Savani as the Executive Director of General Operations. The Board reelected Sonya B. Rowling as NRA Treasurer, Robert Mensinger as NRA Chief Compliance Officer and John C. Frazer as NRA Secretary.

The 2026 NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits will take place in Houston from April 17-19, 2026. Look for updates at **nraam.org**.

NRA
NRA
John C. Commerford
Sonya B. Rowling
Douglas J. Hamlin
Bob Barr
Parliamentarian

"We will live free— Always live free."

"A very special hello to the thousands of hardworking patriots at the NRA, and thank you for your incredible commitment to defending our Second Amendment rights.

"I especially want to thank NRA President Bob Barr—a special guy—and Executive Vice President and CEO Doug Hamlin, and the entire staff over at the NRA.

"A congratulations on 50 years of courageous leadership by the NRA's Institute for Legislative Action. And you give it a lot of action, that's for sure.

"Over the past three months, our new administration has accomplished more than most administrations accomplish in four years—or even eight years.

"Starting on day one, I ended Joe Biden's attacks on the right to keep and bear arms. They attacked it like nobody's ever attacked it before. Fortunately, he's grossly incompetent, and he wasn't able to do much.

"I abolished their so-called 'zero-tolerance' policy, which was putting law-abiding gun dealers out of business for a simple error in paperwork—that's what happens. And the ATF is ending Biden's unconstitutional pistol-brace rule.

"And we have launched a Second Amendment Task Force, led by Attorney General Pam Bondi—who's fantastic, by the way—that will crack down on the attacks on gun rights by Democrat-run cities and states. They really have become radicalized. And we are winning all the way. This is just the beginning—there's much more to come.

"Americans are born free. And under the Trump administrations, we will live free—always live free.

With me in the White House, your sacred rights will not be infringed.

"Thank you once again to everyone at the NRA. Thank you for your incredible support over the years. You've always endorsed me, and I've always come through for you.

"Have a great event. Thank you."

—U.S. President Donald J. Trump

GUN TALK
GT GUN TALK

"Voices of the Second Amendment" made its debut in Atlanta with 18 podcasters broadcasting live or creating content from the Exhibit Hall floor. Ryan Gresham from Gun Talk Media was but one of many interviewing NRA leaders, exhibitors and members.

By John Commerford
Executive Director, NRA-ILA

NRA-ILA

50 Years Of Progress

President Trump put it best. In a recorded message to members at NRA's 2025 Annual Meeting in Atlanta, the Commander in Chief recognized NRA-ILA for 50 years of service and achievement. "A congratulations on 50 years of courageous leadership by the NRA's Institute for Legislative Action," he said. "And you give it a lot of action, that's for sure."

The legacy that has been entrusted to me and my team at ILA inspires and challenges us every day. We would be living in a very different country for gun owners without NRA-ILA's advocacy.

A lot of folks remember 1975 as "the good ol' days." On the eve of its Bicentennial, America's freedom and prosperity were the envy of the world.

Yet the Second Amendment was at a tipping point.

Seven years earlier, the Gun Control Act of 1968 (GCA) had empowered the federal government with unprecedented oversight of the U.S. firearms industry. Five years after that, what was then known as the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) became an independent agency.

Crime was a national crisis in 1975. Then, as now, gun control falsely promised an easy answer to the complex dynamics of violence.

Two national groups arose to promote handgun bans in 1974; we know them now as Brady and the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence. With willing accomplices in media and academia, they made inroads on public opinion. A 1975 Gallup poll indicated 41% of Americans supported a handgun ban.

Indeed, Washington, D.C., banned handgun possession in 1976. Chicago followed suit in 1982.

At the time, the U.S. Supreme Court's last pronouncement on the Second Amendment was 1939's *United States v. Miller*. There, the Court decided short-barreled shotguns weren't among the "arms" protected by the right, because the justices had no evidence they bore "some reasonable relationship to the preservation or efficiency of a well regulated militia[.]"

Miller's holding was distorted into an orthodoxy that the Second Amendment was an outdated relic designed to preserve the states' prerogative to maintain organized militias. If law students heard about the Second Amendment at all in 1975, they were taught it had nothing to do with the individual right to own and use firearms for private purposes.

Meanwhile, the right to carry a concealed handgun for self-protection was recognized in only six states, accounting for only 6% of the U.S. population.

This was the context in which ILA arose. Its mandate was, and remains, to protect the Second Amendment in the legislatures and courts, to support pro-gun candidates for office, and to educate the public on the right to keep and bear arms.

ILA's strategy included funding academic research into the history and original meaning of the Second Amendment and building upon NRA's cohesive culture of responsible gun owners to form a bloc of politically active pro-gun voters.

State by state, issue by issue, NRA-ILA changed the face of American firearms law and made political fortunes rise and fall on candidates' Second Amendment records. Its grades and iconic orange postcards became synonymous with grassroots political activism.

The shift peaked in 2008 with the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *District of Columbia v. Heller*, which invalidated D.C.'s handgun ban. It became black-letter law that the Second Amendment protects an individual right to keep and bear arms for self-defense, independent of service in an organized militia.

Handgun bans, in the Court's words, were "off the table."

Two years later, the high court extended this holding to apply against the actions of states and localities, ending Chicago's handgun ban.

Today, right-to-carry is the law in all 50 states. Permitless carry is the law in 29 states. Every American jurisdiction recognizes the right to armed self-defense. In 34 of them, you can stand your ground in the face of an unprovoked attack and decide what course of action is the safest for you.

On the federal side, ILA helped reform the GCA with the Firearm Owner's Protection Act of 1986 (FOPA). FOPA reined in ATF's overreaching enforcement, enabled licensed dealers to sell

Photos by NRA, AP Photo/Hans Pennink, AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster

President Donald J. Trump
NRA-ILA
LEADERSHIP FORUM
NRA

PRO CIVIL RIGHTS
NRA-ILA

Tom King, *President of the New York State Rifle & Pistol Association*
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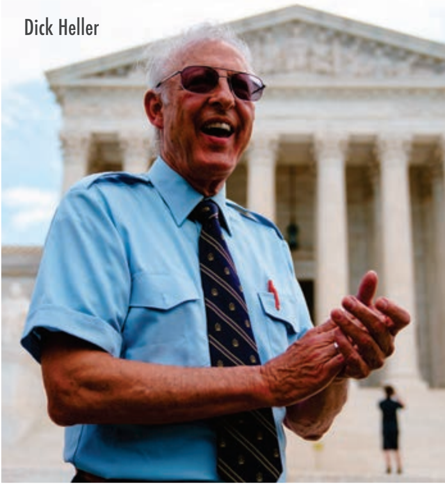
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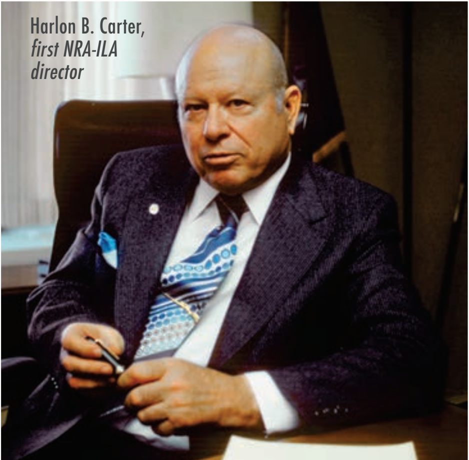
Harlon B. Carter, *first NRA-ILA director*

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Don't let the anti-gun elites destroy your right to defend yourself.
Vote freedom first on or before November 2nd!
Your Right to defend yourself shouldn't end where the city line begins.
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NEVER STOPS FIGHTING FOR YOU!
FEDERAL
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AMERICA'S 1st Freedom
VICTORY IN CHICAGO
I'm the NRA and I Vote.

long guns interstate, repealed ammunition sales red tape, and protected the interstate transport of unloaded firearms. It was, at the time, the most significant pro-gun law ever enacted by Congress.

Then came the administration of Bill Clinton (D), who prioritized gun control.

He started with the "Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act" (the so-called Brady Bill), named for Jim Brady, President Ronald Reagan's press secretary who was wounded in a 1981 assassination attempt on Reagan himself.

The bill's proponents sought a national waiting period for gun purchases, supposedly to give local law-enforcement officers time to perform background checks. They had the votes, but ILA lobbied for a two-phase approach, with the waiting period giving way to an automated, point-of-sale background check (the National Instant Criminal Background Check System or NICS).

Additional concessions were obtained. Individuals with a NICS-exempt carry or acquisition permit (now available in 26 states) could bypass the background check. There would be no waiting period in states with their own point-of-sale checks. Most importantly, federal law—as well as most state's laws—continued to recognize the right to sell personal firearms to trustworthy buyers with no paperwork or bureaucracy at all.

Moreover, after the legislation was signed, litigation worked its way up to the U.S. Supreme Court, where the 1997 case of *Printz v. U.S.* determined the Brady Bill unconstitutionally violated principles of federalism by commandeering state officers into a federal scheme.

No one at the NRA ever idealized NICS, but it ensured that in most American states, a law-abiding person could walk into a gun store, fill out a few minutes' worth of paperwork and walk out moments later with the person's chosen firearm. According to the FBI, the vast majority of NICS inquiries are resolved instantly. And, by law, the government must destroy records of NICS "proceeds" within 24 hours.

NRA-ILA's real-world advocacy salvaged a livable situation from certain defeat and kept the pro-gun movement alive to fight another day.

Another round in that fight came the next year over the grotesquely misnamed Public Safety and Recreational Firearms Use Protection Act, commonly known as the Clinton Gun Ban.

That measure exploited rampant crime arising from the crack epidemic of the 1980s and early '90s to attach a ban on various semi-automatic firearms and a limit on magazine capacity to a sprawling federal crime bill enacted in 1994. ILA couldn't stop it entirely, but its lobbying helped ensure the ban came with a 10-year sunset provision.

Yet his temporary and largely symbolic "victory" for firearm prohibitionists turned into a historic defeat for Clinton and his Democrat party. The "ban" didn't affect guns so much as features. AR-15s and the like were still lawful, just without a flash hider and bayonet lug. Existing guns and magazines were grandfathered, and production and sales surged before the ban.

Clinton's Democrat Party suffered historic losses in that year's midterm elections, ceding control of the U.S. House of Representatives for the first time in over three decades. Clinton acknowledged that backlash from the ban was a factor.

Statutorily mandated studies would later determine Clinton's ban was a crime-control failure.

NRA-ILA was involved in every step of these events and in making national gun control a third rail of U.S. politics for decades afterwards.

It also supported George W. Bush's (R) victory over Clinton's vice president, Al Gore (D). The Clinton Gun Ban would sunset under Bush's watch. President Bush also signed the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, effectively saving the U.S. gun industry from the financial ruin of coordinated lawfare.

NRA-ILA was the earliest and fastest friend of Donald Trump during his historic election victory in 2016, when the fate of the U.S. Supreme Court's pro-Second Amendment majority hung in the balance. President Trump would go on to appoint three Supreme Court justices, all of whom voted with the majority in 2022's *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen*, which affirmed the right to carry guns in public for self-defense.

Gallup, meanwhile, still asks Americans if they support a handgun ban. Even in today's hyper-partisan era, support has fallen to 20%, less than half what it was when ILA got started.

None of this happened by accident.

Other nations' citizens have lost their rights to armed self-defense. There was no equivalent to NRA-ILA standing guard for them.

Yet nothing ILA does would mean anything without your support: your giving, your votes, your activism, your volunteerism.

As part of our year-long celebration of ILA's 50th anniversary, we commissioned a limited run of handsome folding knives to commemorate this history. Each comes with a leather sheath so you can carry it daily as a tangible reminder of what we've accomplished together. Reserve your own with a $32 donation to ILA by visiting **nraila.org/50yearsknife** or scanning the QR code on this page with your phone.

As President Trump said, it's been an action-packed 50 years, and I've only scratched the surface with this brief recap. Let's all redouble our commitment as we embark on the next 50 years of progress for the right to keep and bear arms.

NRA-ILA 50 YEARS
1975-2025

ADVERTISEMENT

Popular CoQ10 Pills Leave Millions Suffering

Could this newly-discovered brain fuel solve America's worsening memory crisis?

PALM BEACH, FLORIDA — Millions of Americans take the supplement known as CoQ10. It's the coenzyme that supercharges the "energy factories" in your cells known as *mitochondria*. But there's a serious flaw that's leaving millions unsatisfied.

As you age, your mitochondria break down and fail to produce energy. In a revealing study, a team of researchers showed that 95 percent of the mitochondria in a 90-year-old man were damaged, compared to almost no damage in the mitochondria of a 5-year-old.

Taking CoQ10 alone is not enough to solve this problem. Because as powerful as CoQ10 is, there's one critical thing it fails to do: it can't create new mitochondria to replace the ones you lost.

And that's bad news for Americans all over the country. The loss of cellular energy is a problem for the memory concerns people face as they get older.

"We had no way of replacing lost mitochondria until a recent discovery changed everything," says Dr. Al Sears, founder and medical director of the Sears Institute for Anti-Aging Medicine in Palm Beach, Florida. "Researchers discovered the only nutrient known to modern science that has the power to trigger the growth of new mitochondria."

Why Taking CoQ10 is Not Enough

Dr. Sears explains, "This new discovery is so powerful, it can multiply your mitochondria by 55 percent in just a few weeks. That's the equivalent of restoring decades of lost brain power."

This exciting nutrient — called PQQ *(pyrroloquinoline quinone)* — is the driving force behind a revolution in aging. When paired with CoQ10, this dynamic duo has the power to reverse the age-related memory losses you may have thought were beyond your control.

Dr. Sears pioneered a new formula — called **Ultra Accel Q** — that combines both CoQ10 and PQQ to support maximum cellular energy and the normal growth of new mitochondria. **Ultra Accel Q** is the first of its kind to address both problems and is already creating huge demand.

In fact, demand has been so overwhelming that inventories repeatedly sell out. But a closer look at **Ultra Accel Q** reveals there are good reasons why sales are booming.

Science Confirms the Many Benefits of PQQ

The medical journal *Biochemical Pharmacology* reports that PQQ is up to 5,000 times more efficient in sustaining energy production than common antioxidants. With the ability to keep every cell in your body operating at full strength, **Ultra Accel Q** delivers more than just added brain power and a faster memory.

People feel more energetic, more alert, and don't need naps in the afternoon. The boost in cellular energy generates more power to your heart, lungs, muscles, and more.

"With the PQQ in Ultra Accel, I have energy I never thought possible at my age," says Colleen R., one of Dr. Sears's patients. "I'm in my 70s but feel 40 again. I think clearly, move with real energy and sleep like a baby."

The response has been overwhelmingly positive, and Dr. Sears receives countless emails from his patients and readers. "My patients tell me they feel better than they have in years. This is ideal for people who are feeling old and run down, or for those who feel more forgetful. It surprises many that you can add healthy and productive years to your life simply by taking **Ultra Accel Q** every day."

You may have seen Dr. Sears on television or read one of his 12 best-selling books. Or you may have seen him speak at the 2016 WPBF 25 Health and Wellness Festival in South Florida, featuring Dr. Oz and special guest Suzanne Somers. Thousands of people attended Dr. Sears's lecture on anti-aging breakthroughs and waited in line for hours during his book signing at the event.

Will Ultra Accel Q Multiply Your Energy?

Ultra Accel Q is turning everything we thought we knew about youthful energy on its head. Especially for people over age 50. In less than 30 seconds every morning, you can harness the power of this breakthrough discovery to restore peak energy and your "spark for life."

So, if you've noticed less energy as you've gotten older, and you want an easy way to reclaim your youthful edge, this new opportunity will feel like blessed relief.

The secret is the "energy multiplying" molecule that activates a dormant gene in your body that declines with age, which then instructs your cells to pump out fresh energy from the inside-out. This growth of new "energy factories" in your cells is called mitochondrial biogenesis.

MEMORY-BUILDING SENSATION: Top doctors are now recommending new *Ultra Accel Q* because it restores decades of lost brain power without a doctor's visit.

Instead of falling victim to that afternoon slump, you enjoy sharp-as-a-tack focus, memory, and concentration from sunup to sundown. And you get more done in a day than most do in a week. Regardless of how exhausting the world is now.

Dr. Sears reports, "The most rewarding aspect of practicing medicine is watching my patients get the joy back in their lives. **Ultra Accel Q** sends a wake-up call to every cell in their bodies… And they actually feel young again."

And his patients agree. "I noticed a difference within a few days," says Jerry from Ft. Pierce, Florida. "My endurance has almost doubled, and I feel it mentally, too. There's a clarity and sense of well-being in my life that I've never experienced before."

How To Get Ultra Accel Q

This is the official nationwide release of **Ultra Accel Q** in the United States. And so, the company is offering a special discount supply to anyone who calls during the official launch.

An Order Hotline has been set up for local readers to call. This gives everyone an equal chance to try **Ultra Accel Q**. And your order is backed up by a no-hassle, 90-day money back guarantee. No questions asked.

Starting at 7:00 AM today, the discount offer will be available for a limited time only. All you have to do is call TOLL FREE **1-888-358-9936** right now and use promo code **AFFUAQ625** to secure your own supply.

Important: Due to **Ultra Accel Q** recent media exposure, phone lines are often busy. If you call and do not immediately get through, please be patient and call back.

THESE STATEMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN EVALUATED BY THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION. THIS PRODUCT IS NOT INTENDED TO DIAGNOSE, TREAT, CURE OR PREVENT ANY DISEASE. RESULTS MAY VARY. 15.

GUN REVIEW

Springfield Armory Emissary AOS

By **Patrick Sweeney**

The Springfield Armory Emissary AOS, a 1911 single-stack pistol in .45 ACP, offers power, precision, elegant looks, smart ergonomics and adaptability, along with the reliability derived from a century-plus of manufacturing knowledge—a superb pedigree, indeed.

The Emissary's forged carbon-steel slide sports a tri-top contour with a serrated centerline that helps knock down glare and guide your eye to the luminescent tritium front sight. The slide has a generous ejection port and the classic 1911 internal extractor.

Whatever method you use to manipulate the slide, the location you'll be gripping has traction grooves. All of the cocking serrations are slanted, square-bottomed slots that provide generous gripping surfaces for slide manipulation. The forward serrations are not on the sides of the slide, but are instead on the angled flat of the tri-top. The front sight is a steel blade with a tritium insert, and the rear is a serrated steel upright blade that is also suitable for use in one-handed manipulation. (This requires practice with an unloaded pistol, but if you need to cycle the slide one-handed, you can catch the rear blade on an edge and push.)

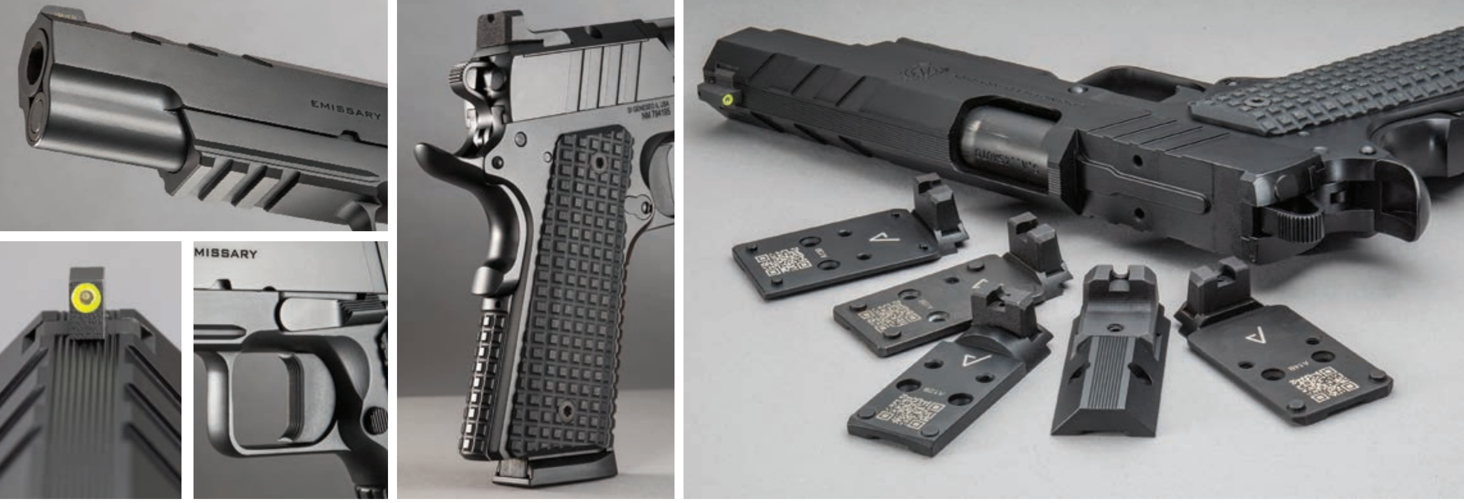
A cover plate that incorporates the rear sight sits behind the ejection port on the base pistol package. If you prefer the traditional 1911 experience and thus intend to use the Emissary with only with its iron sights, then you need not ever do anything with the plate. But the modern world is much more optics-oriented than in the old days, so it makes sense that Springfield Armory teamed up with Agency Arms to develop the AOS (Agency Optics System). The AOS makes it simple to install nearly any reflex sight. Simply unbolt the cover plate, install the appropriate adapter plate and then bolt on your chosen red-dot. The included adapter plates encompass the most-popular platforms of the RMR, Shield, Delta Point Pro and Docter—and these footprints are, of course, also frequently used on the lesser-known brands.

Underneath the slide, the Emissary uses a solid recoil-spring guide rod, with a reversed spring-retention cup. The slide is fitted to the frame for a smooth back-and-forth travel without wobble. The barrel is fitted to the slide likewise, with no perceptible movement when closed. The slide and barrel are then subjected to a black nitride finish to reduce corrosion and increase durability.

The stainless-steel barrel is not like the one in your grandpa's 1911. Instead of a bushing, the Emissary barrel is machined with a bull-barrel profile, so the front end locks up to the slide interior itself. This does several things for you. First, by eliminating the bushing, Springfield has also eliminated the handful of dimensions and fittings that a bushing requires, allowing them to situate the barrel more precisely. Second, removing the bushing shifts the way the mass affects the action, so the increased mass of the slide/barrel combo (before the barrel unlocks) soaks up a small amount of force at the very beginning of recoil and the reduced mass of the slide itself (after unlocking) allows it to cycle at the best speed for reliable function.

The forged stainless-steel frame is everything you'd expect in a 1911A1 frame and more. The Emissary has an accessory rail on the dustcover, so if you feel the need for a light or laser, you have a convenient place for them. If not, the rail is unobtrusive, but you will have to mention it to any holster maker when ordering a holster. The trigger is a square-face design, with small angled upper and lower portions there to guide your trigger finger to the center of the bow. The slide stop lever is grooved. The thumb safety is large enough to be used at

GENESEO, IL USA
NM 704195
SPRINGFIELD ARMORY



The Springfield Armory Emissary AOS has a sleek black finish, accessory rail and a tri-top slide with serrated centerline to guide your eyes to the front sight. Its grip and trigger ergonomics are excellent, and the AOS interchangeable-plate system with built-in rear sights allows you to mount nearly any red-dot.

speed or under stress, but not so large it becomes bulky or uncomfortable riding in a holster. The grip safety has a large upswept beavertail at the top and a speed bump at the bottom. The mainspring housing is flat and checkered. The frame is given a black Cerakote finish.

The grip and the frontstrap of the frame are machined with a non-slip pattern reminiscent of the block pattern of grenades from the 20th century. The blocks, or squares, provide deep grooves for your fingers and hand to mesh into so that the Emissary doesn't slip during recoil. The grips are made by VZ Grips out of G10, which is a synthetic material so hard and abrasive it must be machined to shape, and thus it is practically impervious to sweat, solvents and oils. The thickness of the grip produces an effect that makes the Emissary a bit flatter in your hands than other pistols, even some other 1911s. This improves its indexing—on the draw or presentation, this pistol comes up with the front sight centered on your line of sight more naturally. A properly indexing pistol also brings the rear sight up on the centerline.

In testing, the Emissary made shooting small groups easy. My test Emissary AOS came with a Defender-ST reflex sight installed, though that is not included in the standard purchase. Having worked with a number of other AOS-equipped Springfield Armory pistols, I didn't feel the need to spend an afternoon swapping plates and red-dot optics back and forth, just to prove it can be done, so I left that one in place. The trigger might be deemed a bit "too heavy" by the standards of some of today's pistol mavens, but I found it clean and crisp, and I never found it to be a hindrance. At speed on falling plates or poppers, it was "dot-on-target, press-for-a-hit" easy. Reliability was, as expected, 100% for about 400 rounds.

The Emissary in .45 ACP has power to spare. The FBI may say that 9 mm is the equal of the .45, but Newtonian physics tells us otherwise. Even with +P ammunition and some testing with power-level loads, the recoil from .45 ACP in the Emissary was never oppressive.

What does the Emissary lack? Capacity. It is a single-stack 1911 that ships with a pair of eight-round magazines. If you want more, there are a number of ultra-reliable and durable 10-round magazines made for the 1911. When the USMC Recon units were still issued 1911s, they used 10-shot magazines—a solid if unofficial endorsement. But if you want more capacity than that, you could choose a 9 mm, giving up the extra power to keep a reasonably compact frame size, or you'd have to accept a wider-body .45.

If you were in a curmudgeonly mood, you could also give the Emissary strikes for being big and heavy for daily carry. Well, heavy helps tame .45 recoil, and, as for size, a proper holster makes daily carry something that can be managed. I carried a government-sized all-steel 1911 in my early years of carry and pistolsmithing—and today's holsters are much better.

EMISSARY AOS

TYPE: Hammer-fired semi-automatic
CALIBER: .45 ACP
CAPACITY: 8+1 rounds
BARREL: 5 in.
OVERALL LENGTH: 8.4 in.
HEIGHT: 5.25 in.
WEIGHT: 43 oz.
FINISH: Nitride and black Cerakote
GRIPS: VZ Grips G10
SIGHTS: Tritium front; serrated rear; optics ready
TRIGGER: 4 lbs., 4 oz.
MSRP: $1,378 (base pistol)

ACCURACY RESULTS

BULLET MAKE/TYPE	BULLET WEIGHT (GR)	VELOCITY (FPS)	ENERGY (FT-LBS)	ACCURACY (INCHES) SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
Armscor FMJ	230	804	330.1	2"	2.2"	**2.1"**
Black Hills Honey Badger	135	1,231	454.2	1.6"	1.9"	**1.75"**
Browning FMJ-FN	230	842	362.0	1.8"	2.2"	**1.95"**
Hornady XTP	200	930	384.0	1.5"	1.7"	**1.6"**
Winchester Ranger +P	230	906	419.1	1.75"	2"	**1.9"**

Accuracy results from four, five-shot groups fired at 25 yards from a supported bench rest position. Velocity derived with a LabRadar chronograph, programmed to read velocity 15 feet from the muzzle. Velocity is an average of 10 shots, fired at 45 degrees Fahrenheit.

Photos: Peter Fountain

A Skills Test: Cinco y Tres

By **Michael Boyle**

I have long counseled that responsible citizens who opt to carry a firearm should get some serious training, as merely having a gun is not enough. If you carry a concealed firearm when going about in polite society, it is imperative that you devote a great deal of attention to both the mental and the physical sides of armed self-defense.

Basic gun ownership starts with familiarizing yourself with the laws relative to self-defense in your state. Additionally, before carrying, you must come to terms with the fact that you might actually have to use it to defend your own life or that of others. Other elements, such as what type of gun to carry, what holster to use and even making some lifestyle adjustments will also come into play.

But, after taking those initial steps and developing a modest level of proficiency, it is important that we keep learning. It has been my observation that once new gun owners have obtained a carry permit, many of them seem to believe they've reached a destination rather than being at the beginning of a lifelong journey. Shooting a pistol is a perishable skill, so you need to train to maintain it, and you need to train more to improve it.

Most violent crime unfolds in what could be categorized as conversational distance. Events tend to unfold very quickly, and light conditions are often poor. Accordingly, my personal practice regimen typically includes drawing from concealment and quickly engaging one or two targets at relatively close range with an emphasis on making quality hits. If time permits, I might add a little movement, use of cover, reloading and shooting at longer range into the mix.

Cinco y Tres is a simple drill I devised to assess shooter skills with the types of guns often utilized for discreet carry. It is not especially difficult with a service or compact pistol, but it is quite a bit of a challenge with a snub revolver or pocket pistol.

Elements to be evaluated include your ability to draw from concealment, to get accurate hits, to manage recoil and to reload your firearm. On occasion, some have discovered that their gun of choice is ill-suited for the task at hand, particularly when

Photo courtesy of Mossberg

firing at speed. Making fast hits with a flyweight .357 Mag. or a pocket pistol with poor sights and a short grip has proven to be an exercise in futility for some. That's why this drill is all about realistically assessing your skill with your specific carry setup.

The Drill

This drill is designed to assess shooter performance with the handgun they use for concealed carry. You will need to conduct the drill at a range that allows you to draw from a concealed holster.

For this drill, you will need your everyday carry pistol and holster, two IPSC or similar targets, a timer, eight rounds, a spare magazine or speedloader and a cover garment.

1. Set the two targets one yard apart from each other at five yards out.
2. Load five rounds into your everyday carry gun. Load at least three rounds into a spare magazine or speedloader and place it on your belt (or where you would normally carry it).
3. Holster your firearm under a covering garment.
4. *Cinco*! Using a shot timer's signal, draw and fire five shots to your first target.
5. Reload the gun.
6. *Tres*! Fire two body shots and one shot to the head.

If you can accurately complete this exercise in 8 seconds or better, go to the head of the class. (With a snub revolver, a run of 12 seconds would be considered excellent.)

This drill is for self-evaluation purposes only. How do the hits look? If you are a point or two down or a second or two over the time, it is not a big deal. But if your performance is a wreck, more practice may be required, or you may want to reconsider your gun or ammo package. You can also record your results and compare over time to ensure you are, indeed, maintaining or improving your skills.

By **Mel Dixon,** *Managing Editor*

① LIGHT FOR YOUR LONG GUN Unless you have three hands, you need a light on your home-defense long gun. This Streamlight ProTac 2.0 Rail Mount, or its related HP version, has everything you need: 2000 lumens, a USB-C chargeable battery that runs for 2.5 hours on high, tail-cap switch or remote pressure-switch operation and three selectable settings of high/strobe, high only and low/high. The difference largely lies in the beam strength, with the HP offering a 583-meter (instead of 266) beam on high. (**streamlight.com**; $299 or $305)

② A FIRST-RATE RANGE BAG
Excellence, when it comes to gear, means I never have to think about it; for example, I'll never have to worry that this Magpul DAKA range bag is sitting where it might get wet or that the handle might break—these things will simply never happen, thanks to the high-tech materials and zippers. This bag also has plenty of well-designed pockets and zippers, with a surprisingly roomy main compartment and a fold-out top to make a gun mat. The bag doesn't come with a shoulder sling but has mounting plates so you can attach any that use QD, Paraclip or MASH hook attachments. (**magpul.com**; $129.95 small or $159.95 large)

③ FREEDOM ISN'T FREE It's estimated that 22 veterans a day take their own lives. So, even as we celebrate our freedoms this month, we should remember those who've paid the ultimate price both on and off the battlefield. This beautiful wooden flag of the United States is handmade by a veteran (signed on the back) and uses .22 shell casings for each star on the flag—a unique item to help us remember the cost of freedom and to always honor and support our veterans. Proceeds support Patriots Landing's programs for veterans, including on-the-job skills training. (**patriotslanding.org**; $59)

Photos: Peter Fountain

Important Notice To Members: Exercise Your Rights

Assist In The Nomination Of Directors

The NRA Bylaws provide for the election of one-third of the members of the Board of Directors each year. This means that the terms of office of 25 Board members will expire at the 2026 Annual Meeting of Members in Houston, Texas, on April 18, 2026. Also, any members filling vacancies on the Board that occurred after the last regular election must stand for election in 2026 in the same manner as the 25 whose terms normally expire at that time.

Additionally, one Director is elected for a one-year term on the occasion of each Annual Meeting of Members, by a plurality of the votes cast by individual members present in person and entitled to vote. The candidates for this 76th Director seat are those who were nominated for election on the mail ballot, but were not elected by mail.

The NRA Board of Directors is listed in the box below according to the expiration of their terms of office. You may, if you wish, recommend any of the present Directors whose term expires in 2026. **DO NOT RECOMMEND** any of those whose terms expire in 2027 or 2028.

The Nominating Committee will meet in Fairfax, Virginia on **August 23, 2025** to select Director nominees.

There are two ways NRA members can place names of eligible members in consideration for Board service. One is to recommend them to the Nominating Committee for consideration, and the other is to circulate a petition obtaining the required signatures for placement on the ballot.

The following information about each process has been summarized from the NRA Bylaws. A copy of the Bylaws will be provided to any member who sends his or her request to the NRA Secretary along with a return addressed, stamped envelope (**$1.90 postage required**).

Recommendations to the Nominating Committee

All NRA members are urged to recommend qualified individuals as nominees for election to the NRA Board of Directors. The required qualifications include: having sufficient time to effectively carry out the duties of a Board member; affirming a commitment to abide by duties of good faith and care; affirming a commitment to abide by the NRA Bylaws and policies established by the NRA Board; being free of potential conflicts of interest; and exhibits integrity, professionalism, and showing clear support for the interests of the NRA.

1 Recommend as many persons as you feel are well qualified. You may supplement your recommendation with any background or biographical material that you feel would be helpful to the Nominating Committee in arriving at its decision.

2 If in doubt as to the membership status of any person you wish to recommend as a nominee, submit the recommendation and the membership status will be checked at NRA Headquarters.

3 These recommendations should be received by the Secretary as soon as possible, but must be received no later than August 3, 2025 (20 days prior to the Nominating Committee meeting).

THE NRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Terms Expire in 2026
Thomas P. Arvas
Clel Baudler
J. William Carter
Ted W. Carter
Patricia A. Clark
Charles L. Cotton
Richard Fairburn
Charles T. Hiltunen, III
Curtis S. Jenkins
Amy Heath Lovato
Robert E. Mansell
James W. Porter II
Jay Printz
David Raney
Mark Robinson
Barbara Rumpel
Steven C. Schreiner
John C. Sigler
Leroy Sisco
Danny Stowers
Amanda Suffecool
*Mark E. Vaughan
Linda L. Walker
Judi White
Bruce Widener
Eb Wilkinson

Terms Expire in 2027
Scott L. Bach
*William A. Bachenberg
Ronnie G. Barrett
Charles R. Beers, III
Donald J. Bradway
Dean Cain
David G. Coy
Rick Ector
Edie P. Fleeman
Joel Friedman
Dennis Fusaro
Craig Haggard
Maria Heil
Niger Innis
Phillip B. Journey
Jeff Knox
*Rocky Marshall
Bill Miller
Owen Buz Mills
Janet D. Nyce
Wayne Anthony Ross
Don Saba
Craig Swartz
Jim Tomes
Robert J. Wos

Terms Expire in 2028
Bob Barr
Sharon Callan
Anthony P. Colandro
Larry E. Craig
Todd R. Ellis
Robert Scott Emslie
Lawrence D. Finder
James J. Fotis
Carol Frampton
Sandra S. Froman
Jonathan S. Goldstein
Philip Gray
Jack Hagan
Al Hammond
Theresa Inacker
Willes K. Lee
Howard L. Massingill, Jr.
Mitzy McCorvey
John Richardson
James A. Sheckels
Dwight D. Van Horn
Blaine Wade
Knox Williams
Jason Wilson
Cathy Wright

*Officer

Nominations By Petition

Any member (sponsor) may submit petitions calling for the nomination of qualified members to the Board (see eligibility requirements in the box on the next page). The sponsor may be an NRA-affiliated organization. Petition packets may be obtained from the NRA Secretary. Requests should be mailed to the Secretary at the address printed on the following page.

There is now an online alternative for circulating petitions through the NRA's DirectNominations site. Those requesting a petition packet may also request a link to circulate and gather signatures electronically. Candidates will be provided with a link to a web-based petition form. Candidates will be able to create their own password and will have the ability to add photographs, resumes, cover letters, etc. Similar to a paper copy of the petition form, in order to be valid the signature must include a member's identification number, first name, last name, street address, city, state, and zip code.

1 Petitions must be received no later than October 7, 2025 (no more than 45 days after the Nominating Committee meeting), either physically or electronically.

2 No petition for nomination of a Director shall contain the name of more than one proposed nominee, and no more than one signature by any member shall be counted on an official petition for any one candidate.

3 Proposed nominees must indicate their principal city and state of residence.

4 A petition shall not be circulated without the proposed nominee's written permission, and that permission must be on file with the NRA Secretary by the deadline for receipt of petitions.

5 Only official petition forms provided by the Secretary's Office, which may be

duplicated in full size (8 ½″ x 11″), may be used to collect petition signatures.

6 The petition may contain a brief resume approved by the prospective nominee.

7 The name, address and membership number of the sponsor MUST be indicated on each sheet of the petition.

8 The name of the person circulating the petition sheet, if different from the sponsor, whether the sponsor be an individual or organizational member, should be indicated on each sheet.

9 Petitions **MUST** bear the membership identification numbers, names, addresses (street, city, state, zip code), signatures and date of signing of no less than 363 members eligible to vote (0.5% of the number of valid ballots cast in the most recent mail ballot election of directors). Members eligible to vote are Lifetime members and annual members with five or more consecutive years of membership.

10 **ANY SIGNATURES OBTAINED BEFORE THE PROSPECTIVE NOMINEE IS QUALIFIED TO HOLD OFFICE WILL BE RULED INVALID.**

11 **ANY SIGNATURES OBTAINED BEFORE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS ON APRIL 26, 2025 WILL BE RULED INVALID.**

12 **SIGNATURES WITHOUT MEMBERSHIP IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS WILL BE INVALID. IF THE NUMBER IS NOT INDICATED ON THE MEMBER'S IDENTIFICATION CARD, HE OR SHE MAY:** (a) copy the identification number from his or her NRA magazine label or (b) obtain it by calling NRA's toll free number: (800) 672-3000. When calling, it is important to give the last name, address and zip code as it is carried on the NRA membership record (including designations such as "Jr.," "Sr.," etc.) in order to obtain the proper identification number. Nominees and sponsors may call the toll-free number to obtain membership identification numbers for those who do not include them on signed petitions. Staff is only permitted to give identification numbers, and may not indicate voting status.

If circulating petitions online the petition sponsor, nominee, or circulator will NOT be able to enter membership identification numbers. Members signing online may get their identification number by calling (866-672-3000); checking the mailing label on their monthly magazine; or clicking on the Live Chat window at **nramemberservices.org**.

13 Not more than five petition nominees shall be from any one state during any one year. If more than five are submitted, the five with the greatest number of valid signatures will be nominated.

14 The Secretary will determine the validity of all petitions received and the eligibility of all signatories.

15 If a petition is determined to be invalid, the Secretary will immediately notify the proposed nominee and the sponsor stating the reason for the ruling. The petitioner may appeal the ruling to the Nominating Committee within 14 days.

16 If the appeal is denied, the petitioner may appeal to the Board of Directors, which will act at its next meeting. If the Board rules the petition valid, the proposed nominee will be declared a nominee for the following year's election.

Election Procedures

1 The names of those selected by the Nominating Committee and of those nominated by petition, together with short biographical sketches, will be published in the February 2025 Official Journals.

2 A ballot will be mailed to each member eligible to vote. It will contain the list of names proposed by the Nominating Committee and those nominated by petition and, in addition, provide five blank spaces for write-in candidates.

3 The ballot, properly executed, must be returned by the date indicated on the ballot.

The NRA Board of Directors consists of 75 NRA members elected by mail ballot, and one member elected on the occasion of the Annual Meeting of Members. The right to hold the office of Director is limited to NRA Lifetime members who have attained the age of 18 years, are citizens of the United States and not prohibited from possessing firearms under federal law, and who have been Lifetime members for at least five years at the time of nomination. Directors are elected for three-year terms, with the exception of the Director elected at the Annual Meeting of Members, who serves for one year. The terms of office of one-third of the Board expire each year.

The Board of Directors has general charge of the affairs and property of the Association, and formulates and establishes the broad policies and programs under which the Association operates. In past years, the Nominating Committee has taken several factors into consideration concerning those recommended for election to the Board. The Committee has felt that nominees should be persons well-known and respected in their communities, with broad experience and background in the affairs of the Association, and with the time necessary to devote to NRA activities. While these factors are not requirements, they may help in the selection of those recommended for nomination to the Board.

2025-2026 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The members of the Nominating Committee elected by the Board are as follows:

Cam Edwards, Dillwyn, VA; **Al Hammond**, Alachua, FL; **Maria Heil**, New Freedom, PA; **Robben Love**, Bullhead City, AZ; **Mitzy McCorvey**, Houston, TX; **Owen Buz Mills**, Paulden, AZ; **Janet D. Nyce**, Elliottsburg, PA; **Susan Springhorn**, Raleigh, NC; **Robert J. Wos**, Sarasota, FL.

Mail this form to reach NRA by August 3, 2025

Additional copies of this form are available upon request by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to NRA Headquarters. If you do not want to cut this form out of the magazine, send in a letter or postcard with the same information. Mail to:

NRA Nominating Committee
11250 Waples Mill Road • Fairfax, VA 22030

I recommend the following individual for consideration as a nominee for election to the NRA Board of Directors in 2025.

Nominee Name____

Membership Identification Number ____________________Age ______

Address____

City ____________________State ______________ Zip Code__________

Recommended by:

Your Name____

Your Complete Address ________________________________

____

Your Membership Identification Number______________________

To submit online go to: www.nrapublications.org/nomination

KANSAS JUDICIAL CENTER

AP photo by John Hanna

LATEST LEGISLATIVE NEWS FROM INSIDE THE NRA INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Kansas Supreme Court Upholds Dismissal Of Lawsuit Under The PLCAA

The Kansas Supreme Court upheld a significant district court dismissal in *Johnson v. Bass Pro Outdoor World, LLC,* deciding that Bass Pro Outdoor World and Beretta USA/Beretta Italy cannot be sued by a man who was accidentally shot. The court cited the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA), a federal law that protects firearm manufacturers and dealers when their products are misused in a crime and concluded neither can be held responsible for the incident.

The unfortunate series of events unfolded in 2018 when a former college football player purchased a Beretta handgun from a Kansas Bass Pro Shops location. According to court documents, while attempting to disassemble the firearm to show it to a teammate, he mistakenly believed the firearm was clear and would not fire if the magazine was removed. In further error, he also believed that the trigger had to be pulled before disassembly. These detrimental and erroneous assumptions subsequently led to his teammate, seated next to him, being shot in the leg, resulting in an injury requiring amputation. The injured player subsequently filed suit against the companies.

The court held that the PLCAA provides immunity for the firearm sellers and manufacturer in this case due to the commission of a volitional act, as well as this shooting constituting a crime. Even though there was no intention to fire the gun, the gun owner deliberately pulled the trigger, a volitional act. Further, because he did so while stopped at a traffic light, it violated a Kansas strict liability law against discharging a gun on a public road, making it a criminal act, the ruling said.

Governor Reynolds Signs Firearm Carry Expansion

In May, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds (R) signed Senate File 106 into law, expanding firearm rights in Iowa by allowing the carry of a loaded firearm while operating a snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle (ATV).

SF 106 strikes out the language in the law that had prohibited the carrying of a loaded firearm while operating a snowmobile or ATV. This change allows operators to drive a snowmobile or ATV with loaded firearms if their conduct is otherwise lawful. Hunting off one of these vehicles is still prohibited unless otherwise authorized.

The NRA thanks Gov. Reynolds, pro-gun lawmakers, and all NRA members and Second Amendment advocates for their engagement on this critical legislation.

NRA-ILA

ILA Grassroots:
(800) 392-8683

NRA-ILA: (703) 267-1170

NRA-ILA website: nraila.org

IN MEMORY NRA-ILA CONTRIBUTIONS

April 1-30, 2025

Janet Holdridge (from: Hamburg Rod & Gun Club).

Montana Legislature Sends Pro-Gun Bill To Governor Gianforte

On April 30, the Montana legislature adjourned *sine die* from the 2025 legislative session. Thanks to the hard work of NRA members and Second Amendment advocates, House Bill 809, which prevents localities from enacting "Red Flag" laws, passed both chambers and has been transmitted to Gov. Greg Gianforte's (R) desk.

The NRA thanks lead sponsor Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R), all legislators who supported this bill, and all NRA members and fellow Second Amendment advocates who engaged with their legislators this session.

HB 809 prevents local governments from enacting or enforcing an extreme risk protection order (ERPO) or accepting any grants that would aid in the adoption or enforcement of an ERPO. Red-flag laws allow governments to seize firearms based on weak and nebulous standards of evidence, often through *ex parte* hearings that could suspend an individual's Second Amendment rights without due process.

Governor Stitt Signs Bill Protecting Lawful Firearms Industry

On May 5, Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt (R) signed Senate Bill 500 into law. NRA thanks Gov. Stitt, all legislators who advanced this critical legislation, and all NRA members and fellow Second Amendment advocates who took action in support of this bill.

SB 500, introduced by Sen. Casey Murdock (R) and Rep. Kevin West (R), prohibits public entities from contracting with businesses unless the businesses certify that they do not discriminate against firearm companies. Anti-gun activists have promoted the practice of denying services to the firearm industry as a way to further their political agenda and to squeeze gun-related companies out of the marketplace.

Governor Lee Signs Pro-Gun Bills

On May 2, Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee (R) signed two critical pro-gun bills into law. These bills reduce the age to obtain a concealed-carry permit and protect firearm manufacturers and retailers from frivolous lawsuits.

The NRA thanks Gov. Lee, the lawmakers who championed these bills and all NRA members and Second Amendment advocates for their engagement on these bills.

Senate Bill 1318/House Bill 1332 clarifies that the minimum age to obtain a concealed handgun carry permit in Tennessee is 18 years of age.

SB 1360/HB 873 protects firearm industry members from civil liability when their products are criminally misused by third parties, making Tennessee a more attractive environment for firearm-related businesses.

Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee

AP photo by George Walker IV

NRA Media's
New Executive
Director

Photo by Peter Fountain

NRA Media's New Executive Director

NRA Media is proud to introduce Mike Sanford as executive director of NRA Media. Sanford has been part of the NRA staff for more than 31 years, serving most recently as NRA Media's deputy executive director.

"I'm honored to be entrusted with the position of executive director for NRA Media," said Sanford. "My career at NRA has been so rewarding and I'm excited to help guide NRA Media into its next chapter—expanding its reach, strengthening its impact and advancing the NRA mission in an ever-evolving media landscape."

Throughout his time at the NRA, Sanford has held numerous key positions, including managing director of production and advertising operations. In his current assignment, he is responsible for the full scope of NRA Media's business, including production, digital and print publishing and fiscal planning. Sanford has also been entrusted for many years with managing the Board of Directors election ballot and overseeing all print operations for our four official journal titles, which collectively exceed three million copies in print each month.

"It gives me great pleasure to announce the promotion of Mike Sanford to executive director of NRA Media," said Doug Hamlin, NRA CEO & EVP. "Known for his steady hand, professional demeanor and collaborative leadership style, Mike is highly respected by staff, corporate partners and vendors alike. These qualities have served NRA Media well in the past and will no doubt guide it to continued success in the years ahead." 1F

NRA Online Regional Report

To search for events in your area, go to **nrapublications.org/regional-report**

Member Information & Benefits

Visit the links below to find gun shows, programs, clubs, events and training in your area.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

le.nra.org

Public and private officers interested in becoming law enforcement firearm instructors should attend one of NRA's Law Enforcement Firearms Instructor Development Schools. NRA Police Pistol Combat competition is intended to be used as an extension of an officer's training.

FRIENDS OF NRA

friendsofnra.org

Friends of NRA events celebrate American values with fun, fellowship and fundraising for The NRA Foundation. To learn more about events in your area, visit **friendsofnra.org**, contact your local field representative or send an email to **friends@nrahq.org.**

GUN SHOWS

gunshows.nra.org

Dates and locations of gun shows are subject to change. Please contact the show before traveling. Discounted NRA memberships are sold through NRA recruiters. Some shows may offer free admission to people who sign up for new memberships or renewals.

To become an NRA Recruiter, contact NRA Recruiting Programs at **recruiter@nrahq.org**.

TRAINING

refuse.nra.org | **nrainstructors.org**

The NRA's Refuse To Be A Victim® program provides information on crime prevention and personal safety. To learn more about the program, visit **refuse.nra.org**. The most up-to-date seminar and instructor training schedule is available on the Internet by visiting **nrainstructors.org**, or online training is available at **nraonlinetraining.org**. Questions? Email to **refuse@nrahq.org** or by calling (800) 861-1166.

AREA SHOOTS

ssusa.org/coming-events

For more information, please contact the NRA Competitive Shooting Division at **comphelp@nrahq.org**.

STATE ASSOCIATIONS

stateassociations.nra.org

Joining NRA-affiliated state associations supports NRA's mission in your state. See **clubs.nra.org** for more information.

NRA.ORG

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The "NRA Regional Report," a service for NRA members, is an up-to-date listing of NRA conducted and/or sponsored events scheduled in your region for the current month. Call to verify event dates and locations before traveling.

NRA ANNUAL MEETINGS

HOUSTON, TX

APRIL 17-19, 2026

For hotel accommodations at the NRA Annual Meetings, visit **nraam.org.**

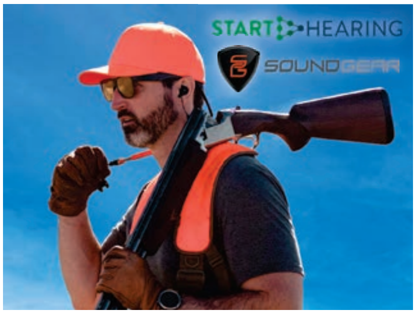
New NRA Partners For Hearing Health

Start Hearing and SoundGear, divisions of Starkey, have partnered with the NRA to promote hearing health among members, particularly those exposed to loud firearms. This collaboration brings together Starkey's innovative hearing technology and the NRA's commitment to marksmanship, conservation and outdoor sports, offering members exclusive discounts on hearing protection and hearing aids.

"Our goal is to support individuals at greater risk of hearing loss—whether they're hunters, sport shooters or workers in high-noise environments," said Michael Scholl, chief business officer at Starkey. "By prioritizing prevention, education and access to innovative technology, we can make a lasting impact on hearing health."

Start Hearing's hearing aids feature advanced technology such as Bluetooth streaming, rechargeable 51-hour battery life, fall detection, GPS locator and language translation capabilities—all designed for discreet and powerful performance.

For those needing hearing protection, SoundGear's active and passive solutions provide unmatched clarity and safety. The SoundGear Phantom, for example, is a custom-molded, Bluetooth-enabled earpiece that blocks harmful noise while allowing speech and situational awareness—making it ideal for shooters, law enforcement and job-site workers.



NRA members can now receive discounted rates on Start Hearing's advanced hearing aids and on SoundGear's industry-leading hearing protection to help safeguard their hearing for years to come. This benefit seemed to be appreciated as members browsed the Start Hearing and SoundGear booth—and had their hearing screened right there—at the 2025 NRA Annual Meetings in April.

"Many veterans, law-enforcement officers and shooting enthusiasts hesitate to use traditional hearing protection because they need to stay aware of their surroundings," Scholl added. "SoundGear's active technology offers the best of both worlds—protecting hearing without compromising awareness."

For more information about this partnership and the products available, NRA members are encouraged to visit **nrahearingbenefits.com**.

NRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Communications intended for any member of the NRA Board of Directors should be addressed to: (Name of Board member), NRA Office of the Secretary, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030; or nrabod@nrahq.org; or (703) 267-1021. Please include your name, contact information and NRA membership I.D. number, as only communications from NRA members will be forwarded.

2025 NRA BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

The following members have been elected Directors of the NRA for three-year terms ending in 2028:

Mitzy McCorvey	44.546
Jack Hagan	43,939
Howard L. Massingill, Jr.	41,609
Willes K. Lee	41,418
Sharon Callan	41,025
Sandra S. Froman	40,671
James J. Fotis	40,089
Cathy S. Wright	39,762
Bob Barr	39,713
Larry E. Craig	39,626
Theresa Inacker	39,467
Carol Frampton	38,581
Todd R. Ellis	38,273
Jason Wilson	37,828
Jonathan S. Goldstein	37,753
Dwight D. Van Horn	36,756
Al Hammond	36,584
Blaine Wade	36,200
John Richardson	35,574
James A. Sheckels	35,435
Philip Gray	35,373
Knox Williams	34,628
Anthony P. Colandro	34,568
Lawrence D. Finder	34,312
Robert Scott Emslie	34,167

And for a two-year term ending in 2027

Joel Friedman	33,192

And for a one-year term ending in 2026

Richard Fairburn	33,164
James W. Porter II	33,013
Danny Stowers	32,643

The remaining candidates on the ballot, who were not elected, are as follows:

John C. Sigler	32,197
Gene T. Roach, Jr.	32,150
Frank C. Tait	32,004
Charles T. Hiltunen, III	31,204
Regis J. Synan	31,062
Todd Vandermyde	30,971
Tom King	30,897
Jeffrey L. Fleetham	30,713
Ronald L. Schmeits	30,206
David C. Mitten	29,826
Richard Todd Figard	29,423
Kim Rhode	28,956
James L. Wallace	28,937
Charles Rowe	28,894
Lucretia Hughes Klucken	26,684
Isaac Demarest	26,270
Steven W. Dulan	25,557
Lane Ruhland	25,182
Greer Johnson	21,208
Mark Shuell	17,025

Nominees for the election of the 76th Director were those candidates who had been nominated previously for the mail election of Directors but failed to be elected. The one NRA director elected for the one-year term by those members present and voting at the Annual Meetings was:

Charles T. Hiltunen, III

The proposed Amendment to the Certificate of Incorporation passed by a vote of:

YES	NO
52,608	1,829

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We the People Versus the Elites

from p. 23

notable for the uniformity of the participants, who tend to wear the same clothes, wave the same signs and banners and shout the same slogans.

Pro-gun protesters are a less complaisant bunch. Certainly, they may have the same goals as their allies. But, because they have not been carefully coordinated by a middleman, they are unlikely to look as if they had been bought and assembled from an Ikea a few minutes before the start of the event. It is an ongoing problem for the American gun-control movement that, when pushed, its advocates do not know anything about the topic at hand. But, all things considered, their ignorance should not be surprising. Grassroots movements are full of motivated individuals who have formed their own opinions and shown up of their own volition. Astroturfed outfits are full of fair-weather figures who are following other people's passions. From time to time, one hears critics of the Second Amendment wonder aloud why their campaign has failed to grow in size or passion. The answer ought to be obvious: Because it's not a grassroots movement.

None of this is to suggest that the right to keep and bear arms faces no sincere threats. As I write, a group of Democrats in Congress is trying to ban semi-automatic firearms, the state of Colorado has passed a flagrantly unconstitutional permit-to-purchase law and the Ninth Circuit has blessed an illegal California law that limits the size of magazines to 10 rounds. If they got the chance, those same people who saw fit to argue in 2008 that the Second Amendment represented no check against Draconian gun control would hollow out the right without so much as a second thought. But, despite their protestations, they will not do so as representatives of the American mainstream, because a majority of the American mainstream is not interested in what they are selling—and, to its immense credit, it never has been. AF

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PARTING SHOT

Anti-Gunners Want to Change the Past to Take Away Today's Freedom

By **Charles C.W. Cooke**

Here we go again! Just months after an election in which advocates of the right to keep and bear arms swept to victory at all levels of government, a bunch of gun-control advocates in the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives have convened to pen one of the most radical federal gun-control proposals in recent memory.

The resultant bill—the "GOSAFE Act"—has it all. It has a snappy and misleading acronym for a name. It is being sold to the public based on a flagrant lie: Their proposal, its authors insist, "protects Americans' constitutional right to own a gun." It is sufficiently vaguely written to allow for all sorts of interpretative shenanigans. Oh, and it represents a frontal assault on the Second Amendment, as well as on the three major U.S. Supreme Court decisions that protect that unalienable right.

The bill's co-author, Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.), says that his law would prohibit "inherently dangerous and unusually lethal mechanisms." By this, he means that it would ban the most commonly owned rifle in the United States, that it would outlaw *all* rifles that can accept magazines, that it would interdict *all* standard-issue magazines (and, possibly, given how it is written, it would ban all magazines) and that it would grant the federal government unlimited authority to compile an exhaustive, perpetually updated, "pre-cleared" list of firearms that it considers acceptable for civilian sale.

Indeed, as Heinrich openly concedes, the core purpose of the "GOSAFE Act" is to empower Washington, D.C., to micromanage which types of firearms may be sold—and to do so on the assumption that the government knows better than the people what the people need for their self-defense. Were his bill to pass into law, it would effectively invert the Second Amendment, transmuting it from an unassailable right of the people into a privilege doled out by the state.

In *D.C. v. Heller* (2008), the Supreme Court ruled that the Second Amendment presumptively protects any firearm that is "in common use." The GOSAFE Act proceeds as if this simply never happened.

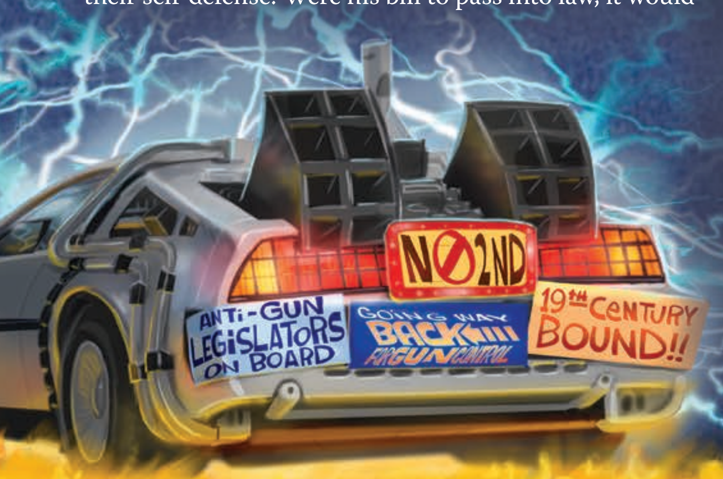
By its plain terms, the bill would necessitate the prohibition of any firearm that is based upon the AR-15 design, forbid the sale or transfer or receipt of *all* semi-automatic centerfire rifles that can accept detachable magazines and proscribe an array of popular blowback-powered semi-automatic handguns.

When selling his proposal, Heinrich is fond of noting that, if his cull went into effect, there would still be other guns available on the market. But this argument was explicitly rejected by the Supreme Court in 2008—and for good reason. Semi-automatic firearms with detachable magazines are extremely popular in the United States—and they have been for more than a century. Heinrich and his colleagues may not like that, but, under the U.S. Constitution, they have no power to alter it.

As for the existing supply of guns? Here we see the classic gun-control two-step. The GOSAFE Act's advocates insist that their aim is merely to prevent future sales, and that those who already own the firearms that they wish to ban would be unaffected by the change. And yet, if one digs into the bill, one discovers that this is untrue. First, those owners would be unable to transfer their firearms to anyone outside of their "immediate family"—and, even then, only under the supervision of the FBI. That, clearly, represents a massive change to the status quo.

In addition, the bill contains funding for a "buyback program"—which, of course, is a euphemism for the government using the American people's money to disarm them. To anyone paying attention, this ought not to be a surprise, for, despite its fluffy name and aw-shucks marketing campaign, the GOSAFE Act represents just another attempt at the mass-disarmament of the American people—and an exceedingly brazen one at that.

That these anti-gun members of Congress likely don't have the votes to get this done now is heartening, but it is also a warning, as they are telling us precisely what they'd like to do if they regain power.



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-When it feels our bladders are not emptying, which makes us very uncomfortable

Saw Palmetto has been kicked around for years as being helpful for prostate issues..

But the Amish have found that while taking some Saw Palmetto can be helpful–There are several other herbs that are just as helpful if not more so, and the Amish take a combination of all of them!

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And that ingredient list starts with Saw Palmetto, which is considered the "granddaddy" of prostate ingredients. It's been used to help treat prostate issues since the 1800's. And it has been extensively researched over the past four decades…

Many of those studies have shown that Saw Palmetto can help shrink the inner linings of the Prostate which when enlarged can put pressure on the tubes that control urine flow.

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Copper: Copper helps the body maintain healthy blood circulation, which is helpful for the prostate.

Selenium: In several studies Selenium has been shown to help protect the prostate.

Cernitin flower pollen extract: In one study it helped improve prostate symptoms in a majority of men participating.

Quercetin: Helps fight prostate problems within cells.

Pumpkin Seed Extract: Helps maintain a healthy flow.

Nettle Root Extract: Very popular in Europe for prostate issues.

Vitamin B6: Helps boost your immune system.

And that's just a few of the ingredients found within each bottle of Prost-Fix. These ingredients have helped thousands get their prostate issues under control.

"I ordered this product for my father who is healthy and just turned 64. He had issues with frequent bathroom trips. Since taking this product for four weeks, he has noticed a big improvement. We very much appreciated this product!" -James Wilson

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